

Case Study: Visqueen Agri-S and Clingseal working together

Farmer: N.H Platts

Area: West Yorkshire, England

N.H Platts is a family partnership located in Wakefield, West Yorkshire, England. The farm extends to 500 acres, divided into 130 acres of temporary grassland, 300 acres of permanent pasture and 70 acres of arable, consisting of Maize, Barley and Fodder beet. The farm has 240 Holstein Friesian cows plus followers. Milk yields an average of 8500 litres fed on full TMR ration, with special attention given to producing high solids and top quality milk.



The milk is sold to a local dairy producing high quality yoghurt, cream and cottage cheese, All bulls and cross heifers are retained and finished on a cereal diet. 150 ewes are also kept on the parkland, with lambs finished on grass.

The farm was recently moved to a green filed site away from the village. More spacious buildings and a level, easy working site were the main priorities.

“I’ve used Clingseal for 11 years and wouldn’t use anything else.”

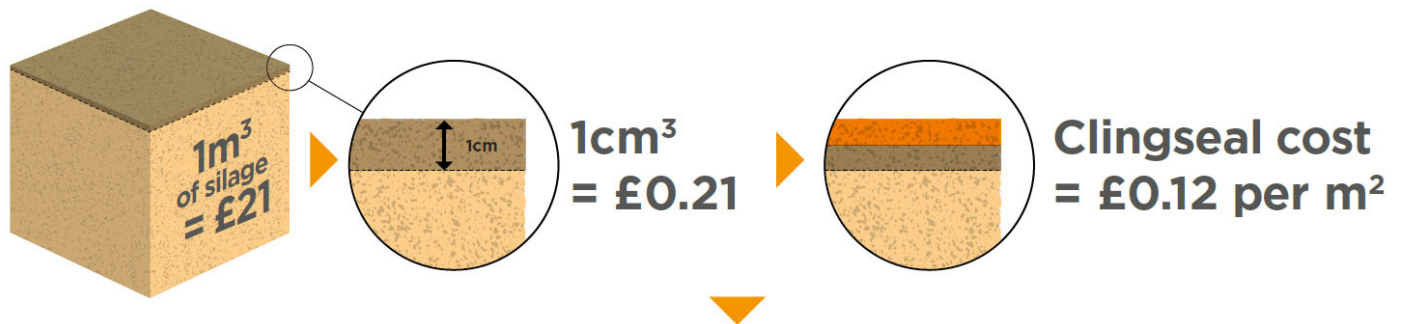


Charles Platts, represents the family partnership and understands the need for high quality silage for his livestock all year round. Clingseal and Visqueen Agri-S are used over all forages, and side sheets are used to minimise losses through the concrete panel walls.



Contractors then fill the clamp with a large shovel, which moves the grass quickly allowing time to roll the pit. The first cut taking place in mid May. He follows best practice by ensuring the chop length is correct for the DM content. He also fills the silage clamp evenly, with layers no more than 15cm deep. Charles adds, 'If the layers are deeper than this, oxygen gets trapped in pockets and our silage quality is reduced.' 'We compact as we go, adding an extra rolling tractor if necessary.'

Clingseal Cost comparison based on a value of £35 per tonne



Conclusion:

If a farmer has previously suffered surface spoilage deeper than 0.5cm, that alone should cover the cost of using Clingseal. This is before you factor in a rapid fermentation process and the resulting better quality silage

Clingseal is a flexible vacuum sheet that is used directly beneath traditional, heavier silage sheets. Clingseal clings more closely to the contours of the clamp surface and tuck in at the sides. This helps eliminate air pockets and provides a close fitting barrier to significantly reduce top and shoulder losses from aerobic spoilage.

Charles, who uses Clingseal, and Visqueen Agri-S on all forage grass, wholecrop and maize said, 'It does what the name says, it clings down on to the clamp and completely eliminates shoulder waste. I've used it for 11 years and wouldn't use anything else.'

After the Clingseal is applied, the side sheets are folded in and Visqueen Agri-S applied to the top. A green net cover is also applied, along with weighting.