

Case Study: Devon farmer sees reduced waste using Clingseal

Farmer: Will Retter
Area: Devon, England



Will Retter from Devon helps run the family farm located in Cullompton, Devon, with 230 holstein fresian cows, he rears his own young stock and has 450 acres that he uses for fodder.

With limited room on the farm, four outdoor clamps are used to ensile grass, whole crop and maize, with an ensiling period of 7-12 months.

A contractor fills the clamps using best practice, such as the use of side sheets to reduce side waste. The contractor uses a tractor and buck rake to fill the clamps. Will uses his own telehandler to roll and consolidate the clamps whilst filling to reduce air pockets and ensure as much as possible that the clamp density is consistent throughout. Will uses Clingseal to seal the clamp before using Visqueen Agri-S as a top cover, and then applying sufficient weighting to the top of the clamp.

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He said, 'By using Clingseal, there is a massive difference in the amount of waste on the top surface of the clamps. Stopping the wastage on the top of the clamp outweighs any cost.'

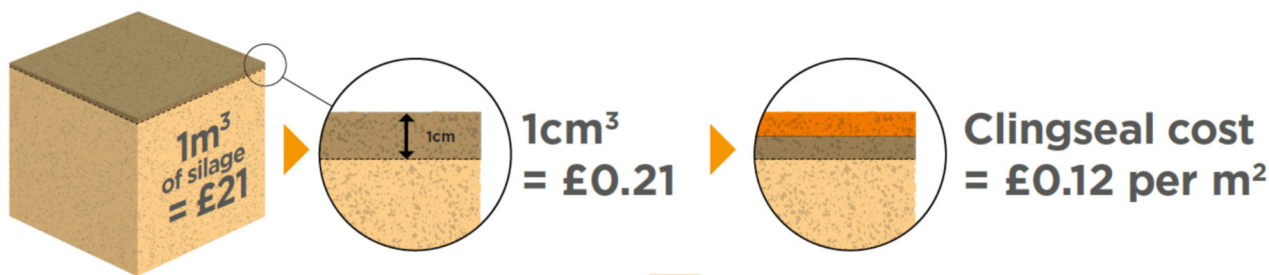
The farm uses the top half layer of the clamp for the younger stock and the lower clamp to feed the main milking herd. This is because there was better fermentation in the lower half of the clamp, but Will has now found that using Clingseal has meant the fermentation is also very good and helps to produce great silage for the whole herd.



A mixer wagon is used down the passage way to feed out, and Will has found that very little is left and the cows eat up everything from the clamps. He adds, 'Before we used Clingseal we were always throwing away a lot of un-eaten forage.'

In the past Will found that there was a lot of wasted forage both on the clamp and when feeding, so for him Clingseal is a very low cost for the savings it brings to the farm.

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.