



SECOND-CUT CHOICES

Research work supports the view that silage ground requires about half as much potash as nitrogen in order to help the crop achieve optimum yield.

A common dressing for after-cut is 80 units N per acre (100kg/ha); depending on the amount of K applied for first cut typical dressings of K should be in the order of 40-70 u/acre if application is to match removal. Reducing K rates after-cut is false economy and you should be targeting in the region of 50 units (62 kg/ha) of potash once the crop is removed.

Sulphur is becoming increasingly important and should also be applied at this time as all of the atmospheric sulphur built up over winter is removed with the crop leaving a massive deficit for the next crop.

Landowner 12-2-7+SULPHUR at 700L/Ha provides 85:14:50 units NPK per acre.

If no P is required then use 14-0-7+SULPHUR at 600L/Ha for 85:0:42 units/acre.

Either way, the use of **Landowner Liquid Fertilisers** to provide 100% water-soluble nutrients will give an unbeatable start to your next silage crop.

PLAN LATE N NOW TO CUT THE RUST

Trevor Tabernor of Wolseley Bridges near Stafford made a costly misjudgement last year and as a result he has planned his fertiliser applications well ahead this year. Trevor who farms in partnership with his wife Jean, has for many years been an advocate of self-applied liquid fertiliser use, coupled with a policy of maximising the use of home produced feeds. Not only does high quality silage feature in the diet of his 100-strong herd of commercial Friesians, the farms also specialises in feeding crimped grain as well as wholecrop silage from cereals and peas, the latter he frequently describes as “rocket fuel”.

“Our system is based on achieving results at low cost, if we’re producing feed on the farm then we are in control of inputs as well as knowing exactly how the feed was produced, traceability is so important nowadays”, states Trevor.

Early and late grazing are fundamental to the system, the plan being to optimise performance from grazed grass whenever possible. A brief glance at the milk production graph of the 6000 litre herd shows a shortfall in both milk quality and quantity. Trevor puts this down to a snap decision not to fertilise the grazing paddocks last August, a choice which he readily admits cost him dearly.

“I got the late application wrong last year and it was an expensive mistake. We knew we would sacrifice some grass production in the autumn but underestimated the effect on milk quality throughout early winter as well as seeing the effect of Crown Rust in the sward which cost us in the spring as well”.



It is widely recognised that the effects of rusts found in grassland can be countered by N application, a late dressing being particularly beneficial as the N stops the disease taking hold over winter and causing knock-on effects in to the Spring.

“It has been an expensive lesson to learn and these things are always so easy with hindsight, we have already worked out the autumn fertiliser plan and it most definitely includes a late dressing of 40 units of N, as 20:2:3 with sulphur towards the end of August”.