

No More Guesswork

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A new invention has made silage making a lot easier



Loss of feed due to high moisture content in silage stacks may be a problem of the past, thanks to a new product on the market. A moisture analyser has been developed by state science company Crop and Food Research and Christchurch Company EDAC Electronics to help growers and dairy farmers work out the best time to harvest.

Ideally, dry matter in cereal and pasture crops for silage production should measure between 36 per cent and 42 percent. Farmers previously relied on look and feel to assess moisture content or by drying in a microwave and weighing before and after. Neither method is accurate nor reliable.

The newly developed moisture analyser measures the dry-matter content of a range of standing feed crops such as oats, barley, triticale and wheat. Each measurement takes less than an hour and compares the weight of a sample before and after drying.