



Do's and Don'ts for Round/Large Square Bale Silage

Do:

- ensure the crop is at its optimum maturity level for harvest (eg. at first bloom for legume crops)
- cut the forage crop using a crimp haybine
- wilt the cut forage crop to 55% target moisture
- perform moisture tests to confirm target moisture
- seal the Lastic-Tube® immediately after the machine is removed from the filled tube
- vent the Lastic-Tube®, if necessary, to prevent excess stress on the tube
- avoid breathing the escaping gas from the vented tube as the gases produced during fermentation are toxic
- reseal the vented tube with Patch Tape or Patch Paint when the escaping gas is not detectable by touch
- patch all holes and tears with Patch Tape or Patch Paint
- visually examine the Lastic-Tube® on a regular basis for damaged caused by birds, rodents, predators and domestic animals
- remember that the first bales tubes should be the first bales fed
- remember that this system is designed for short term storage (4-6 months)

- use of silage inoculants may be beneficial
- control the growth of weeds through mechanical means
- keep storage site free from garbage and debris
- ensure that all bales are produced evenly in order to prevent air pockets in the tubes
- produce high density bales to reduce the amount of oxygen trapped in the bale
- ensure that the correct sized Lastic-Tube® is being used
- follow recommended stretching procedures
- release stretch pressure whenever possible
- tube the bales within 4 hours of baling (8 hours maximum) as the fermentation process within the bale has already begun.

Do Not:

- harvest the crop before its optimum maturity
- rake windrows together as the risk of fungus contamination increases
- make uneven sized bales as it will result in unwanted air pockets in the Lastic-Tube®
- pick up dirt or dead material with the baler pick up as the risk of fungus contamination increases\
- use an undersized or oversized layflat Lastic-Tube®
- leave the un-tubed bales in the field for longer than 8 hours
- leave vented tubes unsealed after the escaping gases have stopped
- leave tubes open overnight

- breath in the escaping gases from venting tubes as the gases produced during fermentation are toxic
- take short cuts
- use elemental sulfur or other chemical types for rodent or weed control.