Suggestions for the Use of the AT Films ® Silage Bag

AT Films ® Silage Bag Storage Site

Place all AT Films ® Silage Bags on a flat, well drained, hard, level surface.

Crushed gravel, sand, concrete and asphalt are ideal sites.

Locate AT Films ® Silage Bags in areas for easy removal of feeds.

Protect the storage area from livestock.

Protect AT Films ® Silage Bags from wind damage (e.g. Place tires or other items on the ends of filled bags).

Maintenance of AT Films ® Silage Bags

Inspect on a regular basis and mend holes with Patch Tape.

Do not allow dogs, cats and other animals to climb on the AT Films ® Silage Bags.

Number and date your AT Films ® Silage Bags for easy identification and recall of materials bagged

Vent the AT Films ® Silage Bags when necessary.

Do not leave your AT Films ® Silage Bags opened over night.

Filling the AT Films ® Silage Bag

Do not allow the feed to become contaminated with dirt.

Ensile your crop at proper maturity and moisture (58% - 68%).

Do not allow the bagging machine to remain hooked up to the bag for long periods of time with feed still left in the hopper or tunnel.

Stretch Bar

Follow the recommended manufacturer's directions on the correct use of the stretch bar.

The AT Films AST™ stretch bar can be stretched 1 inch (2.54 cm) to a total measurement of 11" (28 cm).

Measurement from outside to outside of printed stretch bar.

Venting the AT Films ® Silage Bag

Place a 3 - 4 inch strip of patch tape at the end of the silage bag

Using a utility knife, place a 1 - 1 1/2 inch slit through the patch tape and the silage bag

When the pressure from the escaping gas can not be detected by touch, reseal the silage bag with another 3 - 4 inch strip of patch tape

Do not breath in the escaping gases (the gases are toxic)

Remember to seal the vent every evening

Rodent Control

Monitor the silage bags on a regular basis for any rodent, bird or livestock damage

Repair any holes or tears with Patch Tape or Patch Paint

Do not use elemental sulfur or any chemical means for rodent/pest control. Life expectancy of the polyethylene film is greatly reduced when exposed to chemicals

Keep the bag storage yard clean of garbage and free from weeds

Ideal storage sites include a gravel/sand based site, concrete or

asphalt

Control the growth of weeds and grasses through mechanical means or through the use of the approved chemical Round Up® (manufactured by Monsanto)

Use of Elemental Sulfur?

Past experiences have show that the risk of the polyethylene film becoming brittle is increased when exposed to elemental sulfur and other chemical types. The risk of the silage bags splitting and tearing is also increased due to the polyethylene film becoming brittle -- particularly when the bag is under stress from being filled.

AT Films® recommends that ideal storage sites should be comprised of either a gravel/sand base, concrete or asphalt. Control of weeds and long grasses should be accomplished through mechanical means (mowers, weed eaters, etc.) or by using the approved chemical Round Up® (manufactured by Monsanto). The site should also be free of garbage or other nuisance piles.

Feeding the Silage

Have your feed tested - to have the ability to mix and balance your ration (Total Mixed Rations).

Always back blade the silage out of the bag first then drive forward to fill the loader bucket. This will eliminate excess pressure on the silage bags.

Sealing the Bag

Tying the bag -- Draw all edges together and wrap a 3/16" to ¼" nylon rope around the plastic edges in two different locations 12" apart and tie securely. Fold the bundle back and tie it once more.

Sealing with 2X4's -- Pull the top and bottom edges out flat and then fold the two outside edges in about 2 feet so that the total lengths is

less than 8 feet. Lay these folded edges along an 8 foot 2X4 and tack the plastic down using a staple gun. Roll the board and plastic two or three times and place a second 2X4 on the top. Nail the two boards together slightly alternating the angle of the nails.

Polyfastener – Polyfastener is a two piece plastic extrusion comprised of a channel and an insert. Place a length of the channel underneath the bag. Pull the top and bottom edges of the bag out flat over top of the channel making sure the Polyfastener and Silage Bag are tight against the silage. Using a poly tool, place the strip in the channel locking the film in between the strip and the channel. Ensure that extra Polyfastener is extended out of each side of the bag. This will ensure a tight seal.