



Young Farmers'  
Clubs of Ulster

## Silage Assessment

*Competitors are required to visually assess up to four silage faces or silage bales and give a verbal assessment on one silo/bale to a Judge.*

### Where:

Members attend Area Competitions which will reflect the geographic location and the number of entries. Each area will be subdivided and members will compete in a range of age groups, which will reflect the number of competitors.

Members will be given a short introduction to visually assessing silage before competing.

### Eligibility:

The Silage Assessment Competition is open to all members between the ages of 12 and 30, who hold a valid YFCU membership.

### Marking Scale/ Timing/ Penalties:

#### Areas:

Competitors will be given 10 minutes to assess the silage and place the two silage faces/bales A,B in order. They will then be asked to assess sample A.

Assessment	100 marks
Placings	50 marks
<b>Maximum marks</b>	<b>150 marks</b>

#### Finals:

Competitors will be given 10 minutes to assess the silage and place the four silage faces/bales A,B,X,Y in order. They will then be asked to assess sample A. The finalists may be asked to give a verbal assessment of sample A.

Assessment	100 marks
Placings	50 marks
Verbal Assessment	50 marks
Fluency and manner	15 marks
<b>Maximum marks</b>	<b>215 marks</b>

### Closing Date:

The closing date for entries will be provided by YFCU HQ.

### Proficiencies:

Proficiencies will be awarded on marks gained at the competition.

**Prizes:**

1st prize:- Each age group will be awarded £15.00.

In the event of a tie, winning places will be allocated according to the highest interview mark.

2nd - certificate

3rd - certificate

**Discipline:**

Clubs must appoint one person to be responsible for their members' behaviour.

**Protests:**

See Protests in General Rules Section.

**Additional Information:****ASSESSMENT:**

Competitors have to assess silage faces/bales according to the marking scale below. If the Judges feel it appropriate competitors will be told the cut and cutting date.

<b>Heading</b>	<b>Max. Score</b>
Digestibility	35
Dry Matter Content*	10
Absence Of Waste	20
Fermentation	35
<b>Maximum Marks</b>	<b>100</b>

\*The heading Dry Matter Content does not mean 10% Dry Matter but is the top mark that can be awarded for a desirable level of Dry Matter.

**Please Note:**

- All Competitors must follow the directions of the Stewards and adhere to the time permitted for each of the tasks.
- The use of notes during the interview should be restricted to the Competitors copy of the judging card. The use of additional papers is actively discouraged. All things being equal the minimum use of notes will command a higher mark from the Judge.

The Executive Committee of the YFCU reserves the right to amend or cancel any of the foregoing rules as it may consider necessary.

**Assessment Cards:  
Senior (HEAT)**

**Young Farmers' Clubs of Ulster Silage Assessment (Senior County). PLEASE READ  
SILAGE ASSESSMENT HELP SHEET CAREFULLY  
ON REVERSE FOR GUIDANCE**

Name			<u>Assessment of Sample A</u>	<u>Assessment of Sample B</u>
Club		Dry Matter Content		
Membership No.		Digestibility (D-value)		
Age Group		Fermentation		
		ME value		
		Difference between judges' score		

For official use only

Competitors Score for Placement	
Competitors Score for Assessment	
Total	



**Silage Assessment Help sheet**

**1. Dry matter**

This is the percentage of Dry matter in the total wet silage. Ideally a percentage of 25-28% is best where no moisture can be squeezed from a sample. Very wet silage reduces intake and produces a lot of effluent. Very dry silage can reheat– secondary fermentation. Values may range from 15-45%

**2. Digestibility (D-value)**

D-value is a standard value used to describe the digestibility of the silage. The less mature the grass the higher the D-value, the better the energy content. This promotes good intake potential and nutrient utilisation. Mature grass has a lot of fibre and seed heads are visible in the silage, meaning D-value will be lower and intakes will be less. Values for D-value will range from 65-75%.

**3. Fermentation**

Well preserved silage will have a PH in the range of 3.8-4.2. It will have a pleasant smell and a golden brown colour. Silage with poor fermentation will be darker/black in colour with a rancid smell. Well fermented Silage will feel tacky to the touch meaning high sugar levels.

Marks out of 45

Good fermentation – high 30's

Poor fermentation— 20's

**4. Metabolisable Energy**

ME is the energy value of the silage available to the animal after losses in faeces urine and methane. This value is closely related to the d value of silage and varies along with the d-value of the silage. The leafier the grass the higher the d-value and higher the ME levels. Values range from 9.5-12.

**Assessment Cards:  
Junior (HEAT)**

**Young Farmers' Clubs of Ulster Silage Assessment (County).**

**PLEASE READ SILAGE ASSESSMENT HELP SHEET CAREFULLY  
ON REVERSE FOR GUIDANCE**

Name			Assessment of Sample A	Assessment of Sample B
Club		Dry Matter Content (Values may range from 15-45%)		
Membership No.		Digestibility (D-value) (Values will range from 65-75%)		
Age Group		Fermentation (Marks between 1-45)		
Date-		Difference between judges score		

Competitors score for Sample A	
Competitors score for Sample B	
TOTAL	



**Silage Assessment Help sheet**

**1. Dry matter**

This is the percentage of Dry matter in the total wet silage. Ideally a percentage of 25-28% is best where no moisture can be squeezed from a sample. Very wet silage reduces intake and produces a lot of effluent. Very dry silage can reheat– secondary fermentation. Values may range from 15-45%

**2. D-value**

D-value is a standard value used to describe the digestibility of the silage. The less mature the grass the higher the D-value, the better the energy content. This promotes good intake potential and nutrient utilisation. Mature grass has a lot of fibre and seed heads are visible in the silage, meaning D-value will be lower and intakes will be less.

Values for D-value will range from 65-75%.

**3. Fermentation**

Well preserved silage will have a PH in the range of 3.8-4.2. It will have a pleasant smell and a golden brown colour. Silage with poor fermentation will be darker/black in colour with a rancid smell. Well fermented Silage will feel tacky to the touch meaning high sugar levels.

Marks out of 45

Good fermentation – high 30's

Poor fermentation— 20's

**Assessment Cards:  
Junior (FINAL)**

**Young Farmers' Clubs of Ulster Silage Assessment (Junior Final).**

PLEASE READ **SILAGE ASSESSMENT HELP SHEET** CAREFULLY  
ON REVERSE FOR GUIDANCE

Name			Assessment of Sample A	Assessment of Sample B
Club		Dry Matter Content (Values may range from 15-45%)		
Membership No.		<u>Digestibility</u> (D- value) (Values will range from 65-75%)		
Age Group		Fermentation (Marks between 1-45)		
Date-		Difference between judges score		

Competitors score for Sample A	
Competitors score for Sample B	
TOTAL	



**Silage Assessment Help sheet**

**1. Dry matter**

This is the percentage of Dry matter in the total wet silage. Ideally a percentage of 25-28% is best where no moisture can be squeezed from a sample. Very wet silage reduces intake and produces a lot of effluent. Very dry silage can reheat– secondary fermentation. Values may range from 15-45%

**2. D-value**

D-value is a standard value used to describe the digestibility of the silage. The less mature the grass the higher the D-value, the better the energy content. This promotes good intake potential and nutrient utilisation. Mature grass has a lot of fibre and seed heads are visible in the silage, meaning D-value will be lower and intakes will be less.

Values for D-value will range from 65-75%.

**3. Fermentation**

Well preserved silage will have a PH in the range of 3.8-4.2. It will have a pleasant smell and a golden brown colour. Silage with poor fermentation will be darker/black in colour with a rancid smell. Well fermented Silage will feel tacky to the touch meaning high sugar levels.

Marks out of 45

Good fermentation – high 30's

Poor fermentation— 20's

## Senior (FINAL)

### Young Farmers' Clubs of Ulster Silage Assessment (Senior Final).

PLEASE READ **SILAGE ASSESSMENT HELP SHEET** CAREFULLY  
ON REVERSE FOR GUIDANCE

Name			<b>Assessment of Sample A</b>
Club		Dry Matter Content	
Membership No.		<u>Digestibility (D-value)</u>	
Age Group		Fermentation	
		Me value	
		Protein	
		Difference between judges' score	
<b>Placement of samples ABXY</b>			

Competitors Score for Placement	
Competitors Score for Assessment	
Total	



#### Silage Assessment Help sheet

##### **1. Dry matter**

This is the percentage of Dry matter in the total wet silage. Ideally a percentage of 25-28% is best where no moisture can be squeezed from a sample. Very wet silage reduces intake and produces a lot of effluent. Very dry silage can reheat—secondary fermentation. Values may range from 15-45%.

##### **2. Digestibility (D-value)**

D-value is a standard value used to describe the digestibility of the silage. The less mature the grass the higher the D-value, the better the energy content. This promotes good intake potential and nutrient utilisation. Mature grass has a lot of fibre and seed heads are visible in the silage, meaning D-value will be lower and intakes will be less. Values for D-value will range from 65-75%.

##### **3. Fermentation**

Well preserved silage will have a PH in the range of 3.8-4.2. It will have a pleasant smell and a golden brown colour. Silage with poor fermentation will be darker/black in colour with a rancid smell. Well fermented Silage will feel tacky to the touch meaning high sugar levels.

Marks out of 45

Good fermentation – high 30's

Poor fermentation— 20's

##### **4. Metabolisable Energy**

ME is the energy value of the silage available to the animal after losses in faeces urine and methane. This value varies along with the d-value of the silage. The leafier the grass the higher the d-value and higher the ME levels. Values range from 10.5-12.5

##### **5. Protein**

This is also directly related to the d—value, maturity of the grass at harvest and the date. The younger the grass the higher the likelihood of a high protein level. Values range from 9-16%