

*"Performance through Science"*

# Hay Chat

**"Winterising" your equipment for the Aussie Winter!!**

*Hay chat March 2011*

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G'day hay and silage makers,

What a challenging season we have had. Bloody near impossible to make any type of quality forage when the heavens opened up and in some parts of the country it's still raining. However, I assure you there have been some success throughout the year which I look forward to telling you all about in the below email.

The AFIA conference is on again in early August. As always it will be a great opportunity for us all to get together, drown our sorrows or boast our success, so I hope you are making the trip up to Queensland to catch up with some old mates this year.

As you are aware, we at Feedworks enjoy getting together with all our SiloGuard and HayGuard customers new and old, sharing your stories of making that great hay in tough conditions at this event, but this year sadly we have been unable to secure an acceptable venue to hold our seminar whilst at Novatel Twin Waters Resort in Maroochydore. I do encourage you to come and visit us at our trade display and maybe at the end of each conference day come and have a beer with me. I have no doubt there will be plenty to talk about.

In the meantime we remind you all how important it is to have regular cleaning procedures for your applicators and equipment to ensure you have a smooth start to the 2011/2012 season. We have produced a little flier below that might help.



**Winterizing Procedures for Applicators**

All the best

Mark Lourey  
Feedworks Australia  
0407366426

*Scroll down to read a couple of editorials from "The Land" we have gathered from this season and also another local case study from John Morgan - Taroon Victoria, and the concerns & outcomes he had when bailing with all that rain!*

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## **THE LAND**

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### **Preservative set to salvage hay season**

Product helps to beat the mould

The continuing wet season has thrown a massive challenge to farmers cutting hay. A large amount of hay cut this season has been wet while on the ground. Some that was cut and not baled before last weeks down pour will be abandoned to rot in the paddock. Some is still under water this week. Those are extreme cases, most of the grass will be baled when it dries out enough. It wont be the best hay as it has lost most of its nutrients. But some farmers are saying its better than nothing.

One option to consider when baling under less than ideal conditions is to use an additive to inhibit the growth of mould.

Hay is best baled when the moisture content is 15% to 18%, but such levels have been near impossible to achieve this season. Department of Primary Industries (DPI) fodder expert Frank Mickan recommends using an additive when baling hay with more than the recommended level of moisture.

"But be wary of baling hay of more than 23% to 25% moisture even with a preservative".

Koroit dairy farmer Leo Collins is one of several south west farmers using the product Hay Guard this year. This is a sulphur based additive that scavenges oxygen, depriving moulds of one of the things it needs to grow. Mr. Collins used Hay Guard on hay that was cut in early November and received a drenching while on the ground. It was teddered six days later then baled after another eight days while still at 25% moisture. "We weren't going to get a long enough dry spell to get it down to where it should be, so we baled it using Hay Guard. That crop has been in a bale for nearly a month now and showing no signs of mould." Its not the best quality - a lot of the nutrient would have been leached away due to the rain and it has lost its colour, but it is usable. Its not going mouldy and that's the main thing". Leo says.

## **THE LAND**

### **Hay Guard gives farmers extra flexibility when making hay**

Rowan Creed, who owns a share-farm near Panmure, had success baling hay in 4 days using Hay Guard.

"We cut our paddock early November in ideal conditions on Saturday and Sunday, but there was not going to be enough drying time before the next rain event". Rowan said. "So we baled on Tuesday while our hay was still above 20% moisture using Hay Guard. It's looking really good with no trace of mould on it and it smells sweet"

Rowan said he was trying to steer away from making silage and using the preservative gave extra flexibility when making hay.

"Silage is costly to make and I am trying to get away from all the waste plastic. I would much prefer to make hay. Using Hay Guard lets me make hay under pretty much silage conditions. Hay Guard has changed the way I make my years supply of fodder and I will be using it every year from now on."

**FEEEDWORKS**



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## **We can make better hay in the Western district**

Dairy farmer, John Morgan from Taroon Victoria knew he was going to struggle getting his hay dry enough due to moisture falling from the sky and also the moisture in his soil.

John said his hay had no chance to dry to be baled safely and said it would probably heat and go mouldy if we tried to get it into a bale before the next rain event. "We have had less than ideal conditions for making hay this season with wet or just cool days.

I had heard of the good results that another local farmer had receive from using Silo Guard and thought it was the ideal year to give it a try.

We cut our hay and teddered it that day. We teddered every day for three days then baled during the afternoon on the 4th day. The hay was a lot greener and higher in moisture than I would normally bale but after checking I was comfortable the hay was under 25% moisture. I new my hay was evenly dried so there was no risk of wet clumps spoiling a bale. "

Since the hay has been baled John has checked it for heating and spoilage and was very happy to report the hay was fine. "it goes to show we can make better hay in the Western district using Silo Guard". John said he will be using Silo Guard every year from now on when he is making his hay. "Even on a good year SiloGuard will allow me to make my hay earlier in the season and get the benefit of better quality hay and good regrowth."



**Silo  
Guard**

**HAY  
GUARD**

**PO Box 369, Romsey, Vic 3434 Ph: Mark Lourey 0407 366 426**

**F E E D W O R K S**