

“Ask the Vet and Ask the Nutritionist”

Normally, when I test my ensiled forages the results come back very high in quality. The last test I sampled had heat damaged protein, extremely low sugar, and low overall quality. What could have happened?

This is not an uncommon question, and you are not alone. Most farmers do an excellent job of cutting at optimum maturity, getting feeds harvested in a timely manner, and into storage facilities that do a good job protecting their feedstuffs. They normally have good success until they see a test come back like the one that you described. The reason is that the feed did not ferment properly. There was excessive heat produced, which damaged the protein, making it less digestible. Sugar level is negatively affected because the sugar is used up in an inefficient fermentation.

Crystal Creek® recommends Inoc-U-Lock™ on your harvested feedstuffs to ensure a reliable and thorough fermentation. The benefits more than pay for the cost of application, and are as follows:

1. **Reduced Dry Matter Loss:** Research shows a decrease in dry matter lost through fermentation of at least 4% (normal dry matter loss is typically 8-12%).
2. **Increased Available Protein/Energy:** Because fermentation occurs quickly and efficiently, there is lower risk of heat damage to protein and overuse of carbohydrates by fermentation bacteria.
3. **Improved Face Quality/Bunk Life At Feedout:** With the use of *P. freudenreichii* bacteria in Inoc-U-Lock™ there is less risk of spoilage and heating when feeds are exposed to air at feedout.
4. **Profitable Animal Performance:** Higher quality feeds equate to less reliance on supplements to balance your ration. Your animals will perform better and make your farm more profitable.

As a Crystal Creek® Nutritionist I can see that feedstuffs put up with Inoc-U-Lock™ commonly test and feed better. Thank you for your question!

- *Brian Hoffelt, B.S., Nutritionist*

Please submit your animal health or nutrition questions in writing to:

Crystal Creek®
“Ask the Vet/Nutritionist”
1600 Roundhouse Road
Spooner, WI 54801
OR
askthetvet@crystalcreeknatural.com

