

In the **MIX**FEATURING:
FEED INGREDIENT UPDATES
& SILAGE SUCCESS STORIES

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CLOSE THE @!#\$%* GATE, MATE!

AN adventurous 600 kg Holstein cow casually taking in the sights from the top of a 1,200-dry tonne silage stack is probably the last thing any dairy farmer wants to see, but Lachlan Tindall could see the funny side and sent us in this photo.

Lachlan and wife, Nicole, in partnership with his parents, John and Glenys Tindall, milk about 670 Holstein cows, on the family's 440 ha property at Carapook in Victoria's Western District. A further 850 ha is used to run replacement heifers, dry cows and beef cattle and to grow fodder.

Average production is about 8,000 litres per year and 600 kg milk solids. The Tindalls have spent a lot of effort to drought-proof their business from the often dry autumns and springs that threaten production.

Up to 2,600 dry tonnes of pasture and oat silage was produced last year, more than twice their annual requirement. "Our aim is to finish each season with at least enough silage to get through the next," Lachlan says.

"In the 2006 drought, we had to spend more than \$300,000 on additional hay and we said we'd never do that again. Since then, we have managed our dry block far more intensively in terms of pasture management, fertiliser and weed control."

Day-to-day requirements are met by three above-ground silage stacks, while another

three buried pits hold another 1000 dry tonnes. "We pretend we don't have the buried silage – it's there for emergencies and we hope that we'll never need it," Lachlan says.

"Three years ago, we exhausted everything we had stored and we have been building our stocks back up ever since.

About half of their annual ryegrasses, cocksfoot and phalaris pastures are cut for hay and silage each year. The Tindalls cut, condition, rake and bale using their own machinery, while a contractor is used to pick up, process and cart the silage.

Silage is treated with Trilac HC inoculant, which contains high numbers of the forage-specific bacteria, *Pediococcus pentosaceus* and *Lactobacillus plantarum*. Trilac HC is ideal for spring cereal and pasture silage, delivering 300,000 CFU/gram to treated forage to rapidly produce lactic acid and lower the pH to produce stable, well-preserved silage.

The pit is then packed and sealed with Silostop Orange oxygen barrier film under a heavy duty SilageKeeper UV Covers. Silostop Orange is a multi-layer 45 micron film manufactured using food grade polyethylene resins. SilageKeeper is a tough outer lining that protects against light and physical damage. Both covers are kept in place with SealKeeper Gravel Bags.

The Tindalls place great value on protecting the integrity of their silage pit to ensure they have an ample supply of high quality feed over the summer period.

"It really annoys me when you open up a stack and 15% of it is useless, particularly when you think about how much it cost to put it in there," Lachlan says.

"There's no point providing spoil feed to your cows. We moved to Silostop about four years ago and the UV tarps and gravel bags the following year. It has made a big difference in reducing waste and ease of management.

"Tyres are messy and stinky. They get full of water, mud, spiders and snakes. We used to have hundreds of tyres and now we've got 24 decent tarps and 3000 gravel bags. The bags mean you can cover twice as much silage with half as many people."

The family is hoping to construct a feedpad to further reduce wastage during feeding out and to protect paddocks.

For the record, after the visiting cow, Lachlan lifted the outer tarp and carefully checked the Silostop film for any perforation. He spied two tiny tears at the very base of the stack, which were easily taped to prevent oxygen from entering the stack. His only criticism was directed to himself: close the gate!

W E L C O M E

Hi Everyone, as 2018 races by I am reminded by my wife regularly to stop and take note of what is going on around me. I see the impact of the climate, the fluctuations in agricultural markets, the economic challenges and opportunities and I am reminded of the need to stay focused on the basics. The need to make sensible business decisions based on the facts. No matter what industry we need to make the best decisions based on the best data and facts. Whether you are planting forage or grain crops, irrigating, planning harvest, mating cows, assessing pasture covers we all need to measure and manage. We know the severity of the drought in

NSW and other parts of the country is some of the worst ever seen but it will rain and when it does we need to plan for these events with our forage systems to ease the burden when it turns dry again, because it will, this is Australia!

We are also super excited to bring you more innovative technology with the smaXtec rumen bolus. This allows for precision monitoring of heat, calving, health and rumen function in dairy cows. Get on it!

So in spirit of the season, let it rain on the dry!

Alex Turney - Country Manager



LEVUCCELL SB RECEIVES INNOVATION AWARD FOR ITS FOOD SAFETY APPLICATION IN BROILERS

PROBIOTIC yeast LEVUCCELL SB (*Saccharomyces cerevisiae boulardii* CNCM I-1079), recently authorised in the European Union as a zootechnical additive for chickens and minor avian species for fattening (4d1703), received an innovation award from the organisers of French leading livestock exhibition SPACE: the Innov'Space, with the highest rating (two stars).

Matthieu Baulez, Lallemand Global Category Manager - Monogastric, commented: "We are thrilled by this recognition as we truly believe LEVUCCELL SB for broiler chickens is a real added value and a totally new approach for the whole poultry production chain, to mitigate salmonella carriage risks, from farm to fork. This is the first time that a feed additive is authorised in the European Union (EU) with a specific food safety function. This means the authorities have acknowledged the benefits of a probiotic feed additive beyond zootechnical performance, on end-product quality, a benefit for the whole food chain up to consumer".

LEVUCCELL SB helps balance the gut microbiota and strengthens the animal's natural defenses. Its effects in favor of better intestinal conditions in vivo, show benefits for the reduction of carcass contamination by *Salmonella* spp. It is the first and only probiotic authorised

to date in the European Union with a specific feature aimed at improving food safety. *S.c. boulardii* is widely documented and used for several decades in human medicine for the prevention and

treatment of digestive disorders such as those associated with the use of antibiotics or infections related to *Clostridium difficile*.



LALLEMAND FEED INGREDIENTS RECEIVE THE ORGANIC 'TICK'

THREE feed ingredients widely used in the Australian livestock industry – Levucell SC, Levucell SB and Agrimos – have been recognised as allowed inputs by organic certifiers in Australia and USA.

Australian Certified Organic (ACO), a non-profit subsidiary of Australian Organic Ltd, has recognised a total of five formulations – Levucell SC20, Levucell SC10 ME Titan, Levucell SB10 ME Titan, Levucell SB20 and Agrimos – as allowed inputs in organic food and fibre production.

In addition, the USDA National Organic Program (NOP) has recognised the use of Levucell SC20, Levucell SB20 and Agrimos as general feed additives or animal health therapies.

NOP also recognised Levucell SC10 ME Titan and Levucell SB10 ME Titan, two coated formulations for use in pelleted feeds and premixes, for use as animal health therapies.

All five products are marketed by Lallemand Animal Nutrition, the leading supplier of probiotics, silage inoculants and sealing systems used in Australia's fodder and livestock industries.

Lallemand Animal Nutrition Managing Director – Australia, Alex Turney, says the certifications represent a major breakthrough for the use of probiotics in the Australian livestock industry.

"These certifications give organic livestock producers, as well as premix and feed manufacturers, access to innovative probiotics and yeast derivatives to support livestock health and performance," he says.

"Probiotic and yeast derivatives are recognised as scientifically-proven alternatives to antibiotics in all production systems and are now widely used in Australia, USA and Europe.

"They offer the same health and performance benefits as antibiotics without any of the consumer concerns."

Whereas antibiotics modify the microbial population in the rumen or gut via direct antimicrobial activity, probiotics help to create a beneficial rumen environment via the proliferation of beneficial microflora.

They are particularly useful during periods of known stress, such as weaning, feed transitions or sanitary challenges.

Levucell SC is a natural, strain-specific live yeast (*Saccharomyces cerevisiae* CNCM I-1077) that improves the health and performance of dairy and beef cattle.

"*S. cerevisiae* has been used in baking, brewing and winemaking for thousands of years because of its exceptional fermentative capacities," Alex says.

"Lallemand selected the I-1077 strain from thousands of samples because of its proven ability to improve rumen function, optimise rumen pH and improve fibre digestion."

The beneficial effects of Levucell SC upon the health and performance of dairy and beef cattle have been documented in more than 60 scientific papers published throughout the world.

International peer-reviewed studies have confirmed Levucell SC significantly

improves the health and performance of dairy and beef cattle at levels equal to, or greater, than the commonly-used antibiotic, monensin.

Other studies have shown that Levucell SC provides an effective alternative to the prescription therapies, virginiamycin and tylosin, for the management of sub-acute ruminal acidosis when fed in combination with rumen buffers and good management.

Levucell SB is a strain-specific live yeast (*S. cerevisiae* var. *boulardii* CNCM I-1079) that enhances the intestinal microflora of monogastrics.

It has a direct effect on minimising pathogen load and shedding in the animal and the environment.

"The European Commission has recently authorised the use of Levucell SB as a feed additive for the reduction of carcass contamination by *Salmonella* spp. in broiler chickens," Alex says.

"Levucell SB is also being used in the Australian pig industry as a means of improving feed efficiency and reducing heat stress during summer."

Agrimos is an enriched yeast derivative that contains a rich source of mannan-oligosaccharides, which help to maintain optimal balance of beneficial microflora in the rumen.

Levucell SC, Levucell SB and Agrimos are manufactured using world-class processes that ensure potency, viability and stability are maintained from the factory to the animal.



PROCESSED CORN ON DEMAND

THE use of high moisture corn (HMC) silage is providing to be a welcome 'on demand' source of processed grain at one of Australia's largest feedlots, Whyalla Beef. Located 25km north-west of Texas on the Queensland-NSW border, Whyalla turns off about 150,000 Angus, Wagyu and British breed cattle for a range of domestic and export markets each year.

Prized for its high starch content, availability and digestibility, high moisture corn refers to kernels that have been harvested at a high moisture content before being processed and ensiled.

Kernels are harvested using a combine harvester and then transported to the feedlot, where they are processed and inoculated using a stationary forage harvester. While the process incurs higher transport and processing costs, it produces a bulk supply of ready-to-feed processed grain.

While the technology has been around for decades, Whyalla is one of the few large-scale livestock operations in Australia to incorporate high moisture corn as a routine feed ingredient.

Whyalla Operations Manager, Jess Donovan, says HMC provides an important back-up for the feedlot's steam-flaking facility, as well as a potential point of differentiation for the end product.

"Whyalla sources between 25,000 and 30,000 tonnes of HMC each year, depending on the season," she says. "This allows us to substitute up to 10 percent of the cereal component of our rations according to its feed requirements and milling capacity."

"HMC means we have a ready stock of processed grain on hand as a back-up if we can't steam flake enough grain for whatever reason. We can start feeding it three weeks after ensiling and it will keep indefinitely if stored correctly. The product that comes out of the stack is beautiful."

Lallemand Animal Nutrition Technical Services Manager, Jordan Minniecon, works closely with Whyalla staff to coordinate the program. "Silage quality starts with a quality crop," he says.

"Growers up to 200 km away in Killarney, Glen Innes and the Darling Downs make sure the kernels are harvested at the right maturity stage at 25 and 35 percent moisture."

"The goal is to get it transported, processed, inoculated, compacted and sealed as quickly as possible to avoid dry matter loss and spoilage losses. Every tonne of wastage quickly adds up."

The corn is treated with 1.5 times the usual rate of inoculant to ensure a strong

fermentation. "HMC faces a high challenge from aerobic spoilage, which makes Lalsil HC ideal for this purpose," Jordan says.

Lalsil HC combines a homolactic bacteria, *P. pentosaceus* (100,000 CFU/gram), for rapid 'front end' fermentation, with a heterolactic bacteria, *L. buchenri* 40788 (400,000 CFU/gram), which produces acetic acid for improved aerobic stability and reduced heating during feeding out.

The pit is then packed and sealed with Silostop Orange oxygen barrier film, a multi-layer 45 micron film manufactured using food grade polyethylene resins. A UV-stable SilageKeeper Cover is then applied over the top, with both covers secured with SealKeeper Gravel Bags.

"This is a high value crop so it pays to do it right," Jordan says. "This system helps to ensure a fast and efficient fermentation whilst limiting the growth of spoilage-causing yeasts and moulds during feed-out."

A meta-analysis of 51 scientific studies found Silostop reduced the amount of dry matter loss in the top layer (10 to 60 cm) of bunker silage by 41.5% and increased the duration of aerobic stability in bunker silage by nearly 2.5 days compared to conventional PE covers.

LESS WASTAGE, BETTER PERFORMANCE

SILOSTOP oxygen barrier film is the proven way to reduce wastage and improve the quality of baled silage. Unlike conventional bale wrap film, SILOSTOP prevents oxygen from entering the bale, limiting the growth of spoilage-causing yeasts and moulds.

Lallemand Animal Nutrition Technical Services Manager, David Lewis, says SILOSTOP Bale Wrap can help to maximise milk production efficiency. "In today's challenging environment, dairy farmers have to squeeze every litre of milk production they can from every kilogram of feed produced," he says.

"Many farmers underestimate the cost of spoilage and accept it as being 'par for the course'. However, spoilage in the outer 5 or 10 cm of the bale equates to 20 to 35 percent of a 1.2 m round bale. This is the equivalent of discarding every third or fourth bale.

"Spoilage also poses a direct risk to animal health. Yeasts and moulds not only reduce the nutritional value of silage, can produce mycotoxins that can reduce feed intake, which in turn, can lead to metabolic upsets and reduced milk production."

A meta-analysis of 10 scientific studies conducted throughout the world shows SILOSTOP reduces the amount of dry matter loss in baled silage by 40 percent. "Independent testing using international standards shows SILOSTOP is almost 100 times more effective in preventing the transfer of oxygen than conventional polyethylene silage wrap films," David says.

"These tests found SILOSTOP has an oxygen transfer rate of 20 cubic cm per square metre every 24 hours, compared to nearly 2,000 cubic cm per square metre for two conventional silage films."

The testing also examined film thickness and oxygen transfer rate when the three films were stretched to 70 percent. SILOSTOP maintained 93 percent of its thickness (i.e. 23 microns) after stretching, compared to 80 and 72 percent (i.e. 20 and 18 microns) for the two conventional films. The oxygen transfer rate for SILOSTOP after stretching was 286 cubic cm per square metre in 24 hours, which was 40 and 32 times less than the two conventional films.

SILOSTOP Bale Wrap is multi-layered, UV-stable 25 micron film manufactured using food grade barrier and polyethylene resins. Available in 750 mm x 1500 m rolls, its strength and UV-stability ensures consistent performance and durability under Australian conditions.

David says SILOSTOP can pay for itself several times over by reducing spoilage. "As a rule of thumb, oxygen barrier film can save equivalent of one in four bales, not to mention reducing labour requirements associated with the need to discard spoiled silage," he says.

"Oxygen is the enemy of silage. Proper sealing and storage along with the use of a research proven silage inoculant is vital to get the best preservation possible and the full benefit of the bale film sealing the bale. The bottom line is the ability to provide increased quantities of fresher and sweeter-smelling silage for improved animal health and performance."

SILOSTOP Bale Wrap is used exactly the same way as conventional bale wrap in terms of stretching, handling and storage. "It can be used to wrap square bales, individually wrapped round bales or inline wrapped round bales," David says.

"It can be used for all types of bale wrappers. For premium long-term storage, each bale should be wrapped a minimum of six times. Alternatively, a twin-arm satellite bale wrapper, with one arm loaded with conventional film and the other with SILOSTOP, will provide cost-effective results for silage that will be stored for less than 12 months."

Lallemand Animal Nutrition is Australia's leading supplier of silage inoculants, sealing systems and technical support.



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GUT HEALTH IS NO LONGER A 'GUT FEELING'

FROM a 'scientific gut feeling' to confirmation using cutting-edge 'metagenomic' technology, our understanding of the benefits and modes of action of live yeast upon swine gut microbiota has come a long way over the past decade.

Sharing these rapid advancements in our knowledge more than filled the program at the the 10th International Levucell SB technical meeting in Munster, Germany, which was attended by more than 160 swine nutritionists, veterinarians and industry advisors from throughout the world.

Dr Jean Noblet, an ex-INRA Research Director now working as an international monogastrics nutrition consultant, kicked off the meeting with a lecture on energy utilisation and heat production in sows.

He reviewed the key animal and dietary factors affecting the different steps of energy utilisation in pigs, with particular focus on reproductive sows. Discussing the different ways of measuring energy, he concluded how the net energy system remains the most robust across all production stages.

Lallemand Animal Nutrition General Manager, Dr Yannig Le Treut, addressed the effect of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* var. *boulardii* CNCM I-1079 (Levucell SB) on energy metabolism and digestion. His comments were all the more poignant, given he was a pioneer in the application of this specific live yeast in sow and piglet nutrition before he joined Lallemand in 2005.

Dr Le Treut then focused on the effects of *S. cerevisiae* var. *boulardii* CNCM I-1079 upon energy metabolism, explaining a recent proof-of-concept study in metabolic chambers at INRA. He concluded that the provision of live yeast can reduce the net energy requirements of gestating sows by 2 to 2.5%, opening the door to the use of

more cost-effective rations.

However, Dr Le Treut says this energy effect should only be seen as a 'bonus' compared to the yeast's primary benefits in improving the health and welfare of pigs. For sows, these benefits are translated into improved peri-partum phase: more homogenous litters, better colostrum quality, enhanced feed intake during lactation and better piglet performance.

Such benefits seem to be even more critical under stressful conditions, as shown by Professor Bruno Silva, a researcher at the Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais in Brazil.

During his presentation on heat stress management, Professor Silva reviewed a Brazilian trial that found the provision of *S. cerevisiae* var. *boulardii* CNCM I-1079 to lactating sows under high heat stress conditions improved feed intake, body condition, milk production, piglet weight and ultimately, piglet survival.

Lallemand Animal Nutrition Research Scientist, Dr Caroline Achard, addressed the link between sow nutrition and piglet microbiota, thanks to the use of new-generation sequencing technologies. Her ongoing work at INRA is a great example of Lallemand's 'field-led, science-supported' approach to research.

Dr Achard describes microbiota as a 'virtual organ' that has an important impact on livestock performance. Her work shows the beneficial effects of live yeast supplementation to sows during gestation and lactation upon the performance of weaned piglets may be – at least, partially – mediated by gut microbiota modulation. These benefits have been shown to have visible effects up to 20 days post-weaning, regardless of the post-weaning diet.

INRA-Toxalim Researcher, Dr Imourana Alassane-Kpembi, discussed the impact of live yeasts upon immunity, focusing on

mycotoxins as a model of gut health and immunity challenge.

Dr Alassane-Kpembi has been able to study the effects of *S. cerevisiae* var. *boulardii* CNCM I-1079 at a genetic level using DNA microarrays. His studies have found live yeast help to reduce the mycotoxin challenge by decreasing inflammation, oxidative stress and lipid metabolism signalling.

Lallemand Animal Nutrition Global Research & Development Director, Dr Mathieu Castex, described the issues related to dysbiosis in piglet post-weaning, an issue of great importance in the context of reduced antibiotic usage.

This presentation was an opportunity to highlight some of the major goals and perspectives of Lallemand's research in swine microbiota. Dr Castex says Lallemand is committed to ongoing investment in new-generation 'omics' technologies to better understand swine gut microbiota and its interactions with the host.

The seminar was concluded by Raúl Herrer-Barcos, a swine vet at French cooperative, La Cavac, who shared the organisation's experience of reducing antimicrobials (antibiotic/ZnO) in piglet feed. La Cavac embraces a multi-factorial approach, including good practices (e.g. water quality, environment, buildings, vaccination plan and nutrition) and the use of *S. cerevisiae* var. *boulardii* CNCM I-1079.

Reducing the use of antibiotics is of societal and regulatory concern. As a global leader in the research, development, manufacture and marketing of strain-specific yeast, bacteria and microbial derivatives, Lallemand is committed to helping livestock producers and their advisors to succeed in this challenge.

TITAN HANDLES THE HEAT

RECENT research has shown Lallemand live yeasts protected with its patented Titan coating technology are more resistant to stockfeed manufacturing processes compared to other commercial live yeast sources.

As a living organism, live yeasts are extremely vulnerable to the extreme heat and moisture encountered during the pelletisation process which can affect both their potency and stability.

A German trial examined the potency and stability of Levucell SC and SB live yeasts protected with Titan technology compared to three other 'thermo-resistant' live yeast products under different processing conditions and over a three-month storage duration.

A Salmatec ring-die pelleting press was used to produce 5 mm pellets of a ration comprising crude protein (18%), crude fat (3.4%), crude fibre (9.5%) and metabolisable energy (6.7 MJ/kg). Feed ingredients included wheat, rye, canola, sunflower, palm kernel, sugar beet molasses, wheat bran and rye bran.

In this trial, the average potency of the two Levucell Titan formulations remained stable at processing temperatures of 65°C and 75°C. By comparison, only one of the three 'thermo-resistant' live yeasts recorded a potency within acceptable tolerance levels.

Levucell Titan was the only product that remained stable at a processing temperature of 85°C. Other studies have shown the potency of non-coated live yeast more than halves once the temperature reaches 85°C.

Stability refers to the maintenance of potency during typical storage periods

encountered at the feedmill and/or on-farm. At lower processing temperatures (65°C), three of the four tested products were within the acceptable tolerance range after processing.

However, only Levucell Titan and one other product remained potent one month after processing, while Levucell Titan was the only product whose potency was within the acceptable tolerance range two months after processing.

At higher processing temperatures (75°C and 85°C), Levucell Titan was the only live yeast whose potency was within acceptable tolerance levels one,

two or three months after processing. Microphotographic examination found while competitive 'thermo-resistant' yeasts appeared stable and alive after pelletisation, the cells were significantly damaged and most likely would die during standard storage.

This trial showed Levucell SB and SC live yeast protected by Titan technology not only survived a range of processing temperatures but remained stable during storage for at least three months. These results mean that Levucell SC10 ME Titan and Levucell SB10 ME Titan can be used in pelleted feeds and premixes with confidence.

	Expected count log CFU/g	Measured vs. expected at 75°C	Measured vs. expected at 85°C
TITAN (T1 month)	7 +/- 0.5 log	+0.21	+0.12
TITAN (T3 month)	7 +/- 0.5 log	+0.06	-0.03
Beadlet A (T1 month)	7 +/- 0.5 log	-1.51	-1.52
Beadlet B (T1 month)	7 +/- 0.5 log	-2.30	-2.30
Beadlet C (T1 month)	7 +/- 0.5 log	-0.55	-1.36

Fig. 1: Stability of TITAN vs. bead technology in pelleted feed over 3 month (65°C).

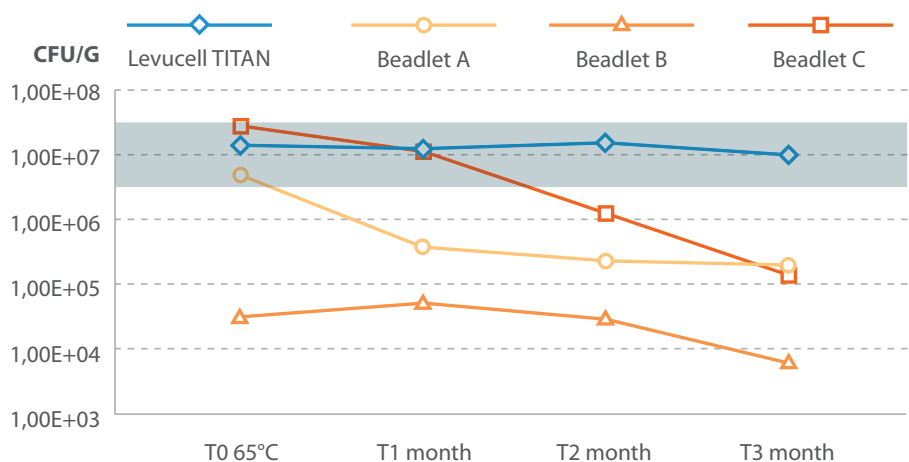


Table 1: Stability of TITAN vs. bead technology in pelleted feed over the storage time (75°C and 85°C).

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TO WHETHER THE WEATHER

TIRED of wasting spoiled hay every year, Amy Rush trialed HayKeeper Breathable covers on her family farm two years ago and hasn't looked back. Initially only purchasing one, she has since recognised their value and purchased additional covers, a decision she didn't even need to think about.

HayKeeper Breathable Covers protect round hay bales from the elements, while allowing the passage of air and moisture out of the hay to prevent condensation and mould growth. Protecting hay from weather damage also significantly reduces the cost of wintering cows each year.

"With the weather being so unreliable, we cut and bale whatever we can every year," Amy said. "And when the shed is full, we store the remainder of our hay bales outside under a HayKeeper Cover, which keeps it dry."

Covering the bales with HayKeeper Covers provides an economic advantage, especially if a portion of this year's crop will be carried over into next year's feeding period, which is exactly how Amy uses the covers.

"Our hay is used to supplementary feed the breeding and weaner cattle, especially over the winter months as not much grows."

"The average cost of a good hay bale in an ordinary year is \$60. Hay left out in the weather has spoilage of approximately 20%. So with 120 bales fitting

conservatively under one cover, I have saved \$1,440 in the first season alone."

That's a return on investment of 100% in the first season alone, Amy added.

HayKeeper Covers lay over the stack of bales and then are secured by using the click clack system and weighted down with gravel bags. The stack must form a pyramid shape so that any water that hits the cover runs off.

"I am happy with how they work," Amy said. "I have checked the covers after they have weathered some heavy rain and any dampness that exist, dries out because they are breathable."

"They are proven to be a very affordable option and have the ability to be reused year after year. And better still they are manageable with one person – very light and user friendly."

"All you have to remember is to put the smooth side facing up so that any water runs away."

HayKeeper Covers offer maximum flexibility to keep your animal well-fed all year round. They are transportable and allow you to keep your hay protected in the field which minimises the need to transport them.

"They provide us with security over the seasonal conditions that we experience in Victoria by allowing us to store surplus hay outside, plus they are a lot cheaper than building a new shed," Amy concluded.



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