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Losses in wet feed storage systems

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1. The problem

Wet feeds are mostly stored anaerobically (silage). Seal integrity is difficult to achieve in large scale silos and during unloading of a silo extended periods of air penetration is inevitable. Therefore up to 25 % losses of stored feeds are common under standard European conditions, obstructing land and resource use efficiency

2. Plan of actions

- To estimate the extent of losses during storage of grass, whole crop cereals and maize as silage in different silo constructions in various countries in Europe
- To establish methods to visualize the losses at farm level (e.g. temperature meters)
- To initiate research on storing and handling methods that have the potential to reduce the losses

3. Our aims

- To make the invisible losses visible
- To grade the existing silo systems as to the losses they cause
- To reduce the storage losses to half of todays losses at every farm
- To reduce the risk of health disorders of animals and humans due to mould growth

4. Calling for cooperation

- Researchers from Belgium, Denmark, Norway, Poland, Switzerland and Sweden have shown interest as well as a number of industries. An even wider network is desirable to produce a successful application within the 8th EU Framework for Research and Innovation.
- If interested, please contact rolf.sporndly@slu.se