5 Steps to Producing Quality Forage

Quality forage starts in the field. The actions taken before harvesting will have a serious impact on the quality of silage produced.

1: Quality Grass
Select the right grass breeds and varieties for the pasture to balance quality and yield. Reseed regularly to ensure a healthy pasture. Clover will boost protein and reduce nitrogen demand.

2: Nutrition
Take manure application into consideration before calculating fertiliser requirements. Don't forget P&K and sulphur, especially on sandy soils. Allow fertiliser to be utilised before mowing.

3: Pasture Management
Weeds will reduce silage yields and quality, apply herbicides if required. Rolling fields in early spring should prevent stones and mole hills contaminating silage and damaging mower blades etc.

4: Timing
Mow at the appropriate growth stage, yield increases at the cost of nutrition as grass matures. Mowing should take place in the afternoon when grass sugars are highest.

5: Harvesting Techniques
Harvest equipment should be well maintained and capable of achieving work rates higher than required. Mowers, tedders and rakes should be set to avoid crop losses and soil contamination.

Take a closer look at why Forage Matters at www.krone-uk.com