Quality Grass Silage – Reducing Feed Costs

Growth Stage at Harvest and Silage DMD

- **DMD**
  - 76+ 74-76 72 67-70 <67
  - **Finishing Cattle**
  - Weanlings Growing Cattle 
  - Dry cows
  - Low Quality Feed

Impact of Ensiling Losses on Cost of Silage

- **Precision chop, 6 t/DM/ha, full costs incl.**
- **€/ton DM eaten**
- **€/1000 UFL eaten**

- 264 246 230 216 203
- 35% 30% 25% 20% 15%

**Improve Silage Quality by:**
- Graze off swards to 4 cm before closing.
- High % ryegrass in swards, sufficient fertiliser applied.
- Harvest at correct growth stage weather permitting.
- Wilt if possible - fill clamp/ bale + wrap quickly.
- Check cover/wrap for damage - tighten as required.
- Maintain and clean pit and feed face regularly.
- Target 4 bales per weanling/ 6 bales per 1-2 year old.