# Jones FEED MILLS LTD. October 2018

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Notice: All JFM Mills will be closed Monday October 8/18 for Thanksgiving!

### Silo Gas! Please use Caution!

Jones Feed Mills reminds all Customers that the dangers of silo gas in and around silos extends far beyond silo filling time. Please consider the following reminders when filling your silos this year:

- Silo gas (nitrogen dioxide) is heavier than air and is present in and around silos for several weeks after filling a silo
- Keep areas around silos well ventilated
- Restrict access to the silo area after filling by locking doors and using "Danger Silo Gas" signs\*. People or livestock <u>should not have access</u> to or breathe air in and around the bottom of a silo after filling. (\*Silo Gas Signs available from JFM)
- The use of a (PTO) blower to remove lingering gases is a good practice when it comes time to enter the silo room and/or the silo

#### For further information on the dangers of silo gas, please contact:

OMAFRA <u>http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/weather/silo-gas-alert.htm</u> Workplace Safety and Prevention Services: http://www.wsps.ca/WSPS/media/Site/Resources/Downloads/Silo\_Safety\_Final.pdf



**The Foundation Continues...** The above photo shows the recent developments of the George Robert Jones Production Plant. This photo, which was taken the last week of September shows that the reinforcement steel is in place for the pouring of the pillars and walls for the grain-grinding area as well as the poured foundation where the liquid tanks and micro scales will be housed in the new mill.



Preferred contact? Please communicate your preferred means of contacting you (cell phone?) when speaking w/ JFM Customer Service. 😔



## **Do Dry Matters Really Matter?**

One of the most common influences of changes in feed intakes for both dairy and beef cattle are changes in the dry matter of forages. To explain, let's first identify that livestock rations are calculated using the dry matter of all the feeds and ingredients in the ration. What this means is the moisture that is within a feed is measured and, if necessary, is removed by drying that feed down. The result is the feed's actual "dry matter" which is what is used to develop a ration and is the feed that is consumed.

In the situation where a producer sees their feed mangers empty sooner than usual or perhaps the opposite – more feed left over than usual, the first course of investigation should be to check the dry matter of the forages in the ration. Forage dry matters can change due to forages in a silo coming from different fields, different locations in a field



(high ground vs low ground etc), different seed varieties, different days of harvest etc. Changes in forage dry matter can have both immediate effects (feed left over, out of feed, change in manure consistency etc.) and/or longer-term effects (loss of production, weight gain, animal health and amount of purchased feed costs etc).

Example	Original DM %	Kg in Ration	New DM %	Kg in Ration	% Diff	Kg Diff	Diff 50 Head
Corn Silage	35%	19	39%	17	4%	-2	-100 Kg
Haylage	42%	26	50%	23	8%	-3	-150 kg

To illustrate the effects of a dry matter change on a ration, see the below example:

The above example shows that through normal changes in dry matter in the case of 50 head of cattle, this ration will end up feeding 250 kgs less feed than what the ration calls for. This could lead to the feed bunk being cleaned up much sooner than expected, leaving the cattle short on the feed that is required. In many cases we will not see this effect soon enough due to other activities on the farm and the fact that the cattle are not all sleeping when we are.

#### When to check dry matters:

- Every time you introduce new feeds (JFM also recommends all new feeds be sampled for their nutritional value)
- When intakes change (up or down) (when bunks are empty sooner than expected or there are more refusals)
- When cattle seem hungry or not hungry
- When manure consistency changes
- When milk production changes
- On a regular interval (ex: weekly, bi-monthly, monthly)

Jones Feed Mills encourages producers to work with their JFM Representative to develop a process of when dry matter testing should be preformed on their forages. The process of testing dry matters is simple, does not take long and can easily become routine on the farm. Training is available from your JFM Representative or by calling the office. Coster Testers (dry-matter testers) are available from Jones Feed Mills for purchase. Ask your Rep for details.

#### How was the Growing Season?

As we look back on the 2018 growing season in SW ON, one might say we had a decent but cool spring, a hot, dry July and a hot, but moist August. In many cases this year could lend itself to producing



good crops, with good nutritional value in the feeds they produce. The JFM Nutrition Team reminds all Customers that it is only through a nutritional and toxin analysis that you can be sure that you are maximizing your forage and grain values in your rations. To have your forages and grains sampled, talk to your JFM Rep or call the office for a sample pick-up.





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Happy Thanksgiving and Thank-You for Your Business!