

Extra Layers

£extra Gains

Research by IGER has shown that applying 6 layers of bale wrap instead of 4 layers helps reduce moulds, improve ME and can result in economic benefits such as improved live weight gain and milk yield.

Extra layers of film brings extra benefits.

When it comes to bale wrapping film it now seems that the more you use the more you get in return. This shift in thinking comes following recent research by the Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research (IGER) which highlighted the fact that choosing to wrap silage bales with 6 – instead of the more usual 4 – layers of film delivers significant benefits. The recent findings from IGER clearly demonstrate the very real benefits of using additional layers of bale wrap on silage bales. Specifically, the experimental data has shown that increasing the layers of bale wrap from 4 to 6 resulted in:

- improved fermentation
- an improved oxygen barrier
- reduced moulds
- reduced dry matter losses

Why 6 layers and not 8?

After highlighting the extra benefits of using 6 layers over 4, IGER assessed the financial returns of applying 8 layers of film instead of 6 when wrapping. The extra cost which includes the film, its application and disposal was calculated at £0.71 per bale for 6 layers and £1.43 for 8 layers. The cost saving achieved in terms of the value of the extra dry matter and sugar recovered was calculated at £1.37 and £2.52 respectively which means that the application of 6 layers gives a return on cost of 92% and 8 layers a return of 76%.

In short, when wrapping bales, 6 layers of film is the optimum number recommended to bring you the maximum return. Here is a summary of the findings:

	<i>Additional cost (£)</i>	<i>Cost saving achieved (£)</i>	<i>Return on cost (%)</i>
6 layers	0.71	1.37	92
8 layers	1.43	2.52	76

What is it worth to you?

Wrapping with 6 layers of film instead of 4 means:

- £1.37 worth of benefits per bale
- every roll of film could net your herd an extra £27.40
- for every pallet of 750mm wide film this could achieve an impressive £1096 worth of benefits.

To find out more on how you could get the best out of your bale wrap, come along to one of our open days where experts from bpi.agri will be on hand to help.

Wooler:	01668 280000	Stokesley:	01642 717600
Morpeth:	01670 500330	Leyburn:	01969 621300
Hexham:	01434 613930	Ripley:	01423 774400
Hallshaw Farm Sup.:	01388 833678	Thirsk:	01845 570020
Piercebridge:	01325 504600	Driffield:	01377 249700

BUSINESS SUPPORT UNIT

Cock Lane, Piercebridge, Darlington, Co Durham, DL2 3TJ

Tel **01325 504600** Fax **01325 504660**

Email csd@farmway.co.uk

Website www.farmway.co.uk/corporate

