

Technical Bulletin

Does the Cost of Preservation Pay?

Return on Investment (ROI) of Using Inoculants

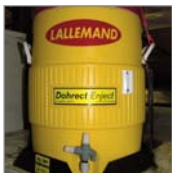
Producers often question the value of using a silage inoculant, wondering if there is really a return on investment. To answer this, Professor Limin Kung of the University of Delaware produced a generic table to look at what the inoculant cost really translated into, in terms of cost per cow per day. He then compared this with what he felt was a relatively conservative assumed benefit of 1 lb milk per cow per day. His data is summarized below.

Corn Silage fed in ration, lbs per cow/day	Cost per cow per day (cents) for Inoculant			
	\$1.00 / ton	\$1.50 / ton	\$2.00 / ton	\$3.00 / ton
20	1	1.5	2	3
40	2	3	4	6
60	3	4.5	6	9

Assuming preservation saves 1lb milk / cow / day, value 10 - 20 cents, ROI is typically 3 - 6:1

Adapted from Kung, 2001

Trials with Biotol Inoculants have consistently produced increases in milk production of around 3 lb per cow per day : around a penny for each extra pound of milk.



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