



Having a plan to increase the tonnes of 1st cut silage is one area; another key area is reducing waste both when ensiled and been fed out. Good silage making practice is the key to reduced waste, start with the end in mind. Consistent and thorough consolidation during the clamping process helps minimise pit loss and waste. Using a reliable additive manages the fermentation/preservation and ensures a consistent product is fed once the clamp is being fed.

Two recent silage competitions highlighted what good practice and reliable additives can produce, both grass clamp winners of our own New Breed and Westmorland County Agricultural Society silage competitions used Micron grass treatments. Well done to the winners.

Mark Borthwick

#### Customer Comments:

"Our first cut silage is really stable and feeding well, we used NB Advance ES75 on all our silage this year. It is good to work with a company that continues to develop its products to get the most out of the

silages we make. Our cows are currently giving 35 litres and 4.17% butterfat, 3.31% protein."

**Paul Wadsworth of Big Balcraig. 2nd Place in the AgriScot First Cut Clamp Silage Competition 2017.**

"We used NB Advance ES75 additive this year, when we opened the first cut it was well fermented and smelt really sweet. The cows have milked really well recording at 33-34lts this winter. Second and third cut despite the wetter summer have both turned out well and our cows and Youngstock are eating it spot on."

**Mr Mason at Heaves Farm Levens. Champion in Westmorland Show Grass Silage Competition.**

"We have used Advance Grass for a number of years. Each year we have consistently made top quality well fermented silage which is very stable, no waste on top of clamp and aerobic stability is excellent when fed down the trough. We feel very confident when using this product."

**Anthony and Maxine Hayhurst of Natland Park.**



702 Cameron House, White Cross Industrial Estate,  
South Road, Lancaster LA1 4XF  
Tel: 01524 542600  
email: ruth.wilkinson@newbreeduk.co.uk  
website: www.nb-uk.co.uk

# NB•UK

**NEW BREED (UK) LTD  
INDEPENDENT NUTRITIONISTS**  
Tel: 01524 542600



**NEWSLETTER**  
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# SILAGE SPECIAL

## Introduction:

Having just closed our February Sales Meeting it has made me appreciate how important the team spirit and attitude is that we have nurtured at New Breed. We are very much individuals and the synergy we produce as a team is rarely found amongst our competitors. If one of us doesn't know the answer then someone else within the group will most probably be able to help.

This winter has been a challenging one for many of our customers, managing a shortage of forage stocks an abundance of slurry and very wet land to graze and spread muck on. It is the desire of all the team to help our customers overcome these obstacles and still remain on track to achieving their goals. I am sure it is this approach and passion for the ruminant industry that has enabled New Breed to continue to grow and develop.

Richard Rolfe

## New Breed UK's First Silage Competition:

We were thrilled to receive 85 entries to the competition across the three categories, Grass Clamp silage, Wholecrop silage and Maize Silage, spanning from Stranraer to Cheshire. We would like to thank everyone who entered, and despite the weather challenging the silage season the quality of entries were very high. These were first anonymously scored on nutritional/analytical content looking at energy, protein, D values, and sugar levels of the cut to create a shortlist. Then at the end of January Dr David Parfitt, the Managing Director of Micron Bio-Systems, joined Richard and Mark on each of the shortlisted farms to visually assess the clamp management and utilisation of silage.

It is with pleasure to announce the winners of the first New Breed UK silage competitions are:

### 1st Prize Clamp Grass Silage:

Winter and Fisher of West House Farm

### 1st Prize Wholecrop Silage:

Stephen and Anne Morley of Petteril Bank

### 1st Prize Maize Silage:

John Ferguson of Blencogo House Farm

The popularity of the event highlighted to me the importance of producing good quality silage. The forage you grow is the most cost-effective feed source for your cows, consistent quality is fundamental to animal performance, management of farm cost, and aiding profitability through efficiency. A fast fermentation is key to optimising a top-quality forage and retention of the essential nutrients, higher protein and higher sugar levels. This is all achievable by using a silage additive. Both our Clamp Grass and Wholecrop champions are Micron users.

"We used Micron Advance on our first cut grass silage which won the NB UK competition this year at 76 D Value and 12.1 ME, intakes are fantastic, and the pit face has remained stable."



Alan Fisher, 2018 Champion Clamp Grass Silage.

Ruth Wilkinson



First Cut Silage

For many we are now into the home stretch of winter, through Lancashire, Cumbria and Scotland it has been a very challenging winter juggling forage quality and more importantly for many the quantity of grass silage available. Clamp silage and big bales have been bought and sold at prices we have rarely seen.

The lack of grass silage and cost of buying forage to top up with has refocused the true value of home grown grass silage. Together with the quantity grown and reducing waste once ensiled and been fed out.

Grass silage bench mark cost of £1/% of dry matter moved up to £1.25-1.35/% of dry, a 28% DM grass silage was typically costing £34-37/t fresh weight ex farm. This has certainly focussed attention on maximising 2018 1st cut yields, over recent years on some farms we have seen nitrogen usage drop to 60-70 units/acre. Increasing to 85-90 units/acre will see an increase in dry matter yield, over 200 acres of 1st cut ground this could be worth 180-220t fresh weight.