SILAGE PRE-SEASON CHECKLIST

Focus points for every farm:

Y/N | Target | Comment

Preparation:

- Target cutting stage (DM%)
- How will you measure DM%?
- Target cutting height
- Target chopping length
- Target corn-cracking
- Ensure machines are in good working order

Technology:

- Which inoculant are you going to use?
- Evaluate inoculant bacteria concentrations by comparison
- Calibration of applicator
- How will you double-check accurate application?

Storage:

- Silage made in same area as before?
- Same storage system or new: e.g silo bags?
- Is area clean, dry, and free from debris?
- Have the covering sheets been ordered?
- Which plastic technology traits have you evaluated?
- Is the sheet the right size?

Y/N | Target | Comment

Delayed ensiling:

- Target harvesting rate per hour (tonnes)
- Target hauling capacity per hour (tonnes)
- Do you need more trailers?
- How long will the material be on trailers?

Compaction:

- How will you prevent contamination during push-up?
- Target compaction (bunkers/ buns)
- Do you have enough compaction machinery?
- How are you going to measure compaction?
- How quickly will the harvested material be anaerobic?

Losses:

- Do you measure silage losses?
- How much is your annual silage DM% loss?
- Can you improve on these losses?
- What is your new target loss value?
- Have you made provision for the losses in your feed-flow?

Responsible person for silage improvement and quality Me: _____

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