

Hensley Farm

DIARY FOR JUNE

Following an early Spring we were able to make our first cut silage in the middle of May this year (usually late May/early June but exact timing depends very much on the weather). It is important that we make a good quality silage as this is the cows' main feed during the winter months. We cut the grass 24 hours before harvesting it to allow it to dry and wilt slightly and aim to do this during the sunniest hours of the day as the sugar content in the grass is at it's highest. The grass is put into rows with a rake (see photo) before the forager picks it up.



If the weather looks like it's about to change we often work late into the night to beat the rain, as wet grass makes poor quality silage and in turn reduces the quality and quantity of the cows' milk. The grass is brought back to the farm in big trailers, tipped into a large shed (silage pit) and rolled down tight to get the air out. It is then covered with a black plastic sheet which helps the grass to ferment into silage over the summer months.

June is one of the times in the year we spread slurry on the fields that have been cut. This is to help the grass grow again so that we can make a 2nd cut of silage in July.

The Story of Silage in Photographs

