

January 2010 Service Bulletin

Upcoming Events:

With another year behind us and the spring planting season only months away, January is the perfect time to attend an agricultural conference. Agri-Food Laboratories is proud to attend the following events, and would welcome any questions or discussion in our exhibitor booth at each venue.

January 6th and 7th

Southwest Ag Conference, Ridgetown, www.southwestagconference.ca

January 7th to 9th

12th Annual Beef Industry Convention, London, email: wac@xplornet.com

January 13th and 14th

CCA Conference (for Certified Crop Advisors), London, email: tina.tfio@sympatico.ca

January 23^d

Farm\$mart Agricultural Conference, Guelph, www.uoguelph.ca/farmsmart/

Corn Silage:

Corn silage growing season was characterized by reduced hours of sunlight and accumulated heat units. Most corn silage crops did not show significant deleterious effects as a result of these limiting factors. Weather allowed most corn silage crops to be harvested and stored under good conditions.

Samples have been received that physically appear to be fresh corn silage even though they have been “ensiled” for as long as six weeks. A number of these have been analyzed for VFA and pH. For 67% of the samples, the pH was greater than 4.0, and in 87% of the cases, the pH was greater than 3.97.

In more than 50% of the cases, the lactic to acetic acid ratio was 1:1 or less, and the overall concentration of total VFA was low. Potential problems due to these results include long term storage and lower energy feed.

It has been suggested that the cause of this phenomena may be associated with harvesting shortly after a hard frost, or shortened first phase fermentation.

Very high moisture may compromise the ability of shelled corn (HMC) to ferment. A few samples have shown signs of yeast and mold activity. Availability of starch in these samples as well as those high moisture corn samples that have been partially dried with heat, may be reduced.



Agri-Food Laboratories is chosen more often by industry leaders for analytical quality, knowledge, integrity, innovation and service.