



# Silage making the easy way

Producing high-quality silage is essential for contractors so choosing a good preservative or inoculant is a big decision. So too is having the most efficient and easy silage making process at a very busy time.

Rob and Rachel are managers and shareholders in Colton Bros Ltd, a silage and maize grain contracting business in the Wairarapa. The company was started by Warren Colton many years ago (Warren is now 90) and the company is running well under the shared approach taken by the new generation of operators.

On the forage side of the business, Colton's have invested in some big machinery and work at a cracking pace through the season. They use Biostart's SilageKing liquid for their silage because it creates a great product, there is little wastage, and it is easy to use and store.

Rob says, "The price is good, and you can keep using it after the pack is opened, so nothing goes to waste." This is also useful to him because the amount of SilageKing used for a customer can be easily read off their in-cab monitor, "We use 90–100 mL of SilageKing per bale, so the amount used accurately tells me what to bill the customer for."

When it comes to silage making Gray's Contracting in Carterton also choose SilageKing because it does the job and makes life easier. Luke, the chopper driver, says it does the job with the added bonus of being easy to store and use, "If we need to stop for a few days the product is still fine after opening so we don't have to open a new pack – it also means there is no wastage."

## How SilageKing works

SilageKing, one of Biostart's forage preservative range, has two modes of action; it increases the action of ensiling microbes while reducing the action of spoilage microbes.

In the first mode of action, SilageKing activates the beneficial lactic acid and acetic bacteria that occur naturally on the forage prior to chopping and baling. These activated bacteria produce lactic acid and acetic acid that then ensile (preserve) the forage.

Secondly, SilageKing inhibits the growth of the naturally occurring spoilage microbes that are also present on forage in the paddock. SilageKing inhibits the growth of both yeasts, which heat silage pit faces, and spoilage fungi, some of which produce mycotoxins that impair animal weight gain and fertility.

SilageKing can be used on cereal and grass and is available as either a liquid or a granule. This season Organic SilageKing Liquid is available for certified organic growers.

Biostart has a range of convenient applicators for both the liquid version of SilageKing and the granulated version.