BaleMax™ Helps Maintain Feed Value in Stored Hay

BACKGROUND

In this study conducted in Southwest Minnesota, hay was baled at 20% moisture, stacked on pallets, and left to sit for 120 days. These bales were comprised of pure alfalfa, which was baled in late November of 2019. The 120 days of storage took place in an unheated-covered outdoor storage area that was protected from the elements. Final feed quality samples were taken on April 6, 2020.

Crop: Alfalfa
Baled: November 30, 2019, at 20% moisture
Storage: Unheated-covered outdoor storage protected from moisture and sun
Storage Period: 120 Days
Final Samples: April 6, 2020

RESULTS

Improved Feed Quality

Control bales lost 28% of their RFV after only 120 days, a difference of 62 points RFV. Control bales also had visibly lower feed quality in any place that they touched, while the bales treated with BaleMax had visually better feed quality.

Treatment	RFV
Control Average	220
BaleMax Average	282
RFV Difference	+62 RFV points
BaleMax Advantage	28.3%

After 120 days in storage, untreated bales showed visibly lower feed quality, while BaleMax-treated bales fed cleanly and maintained a +62 RFV advantage over the control.

Visible feed quality issues on control bales.

Bottom layer of bales had substaintial feed quality issues.