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RISK MANAGEMENT
IN THE PROCESS OF HARVEST AND ENSILAGE OF MEADOW SWARD

Key words: ensilage of meadow sward, FMEA analysis of process, risk management, silage risk

Summary

Risk is a phenomenon associated with each type of undertaken actions, including those related to the process of harvest and conservation of roughages. This type of risk is called silage risk and is defined as a possibility (probability) of obtaining high quality silage. The concept of the risk management is defined as a sequence of activities related to obtaining silage of optimal quality. Reasons of silage risks were considered on three levels: raw material, fermentation and technology. As part of a risk management strategy the overall silage risk matrix was developed. In this matrix the key actions to minimize the silage risk were determined and the proposals of silage risk management strategy in the next stages of silage production were presented. Based on the observations and results of a study carried out in two farms (A and B) in the years 2008–2010, the silage risk management process was evaluated using a modified FMEA analysis of process. The aim of the analysis was to identify and assess the risks associated with weaknesses present in the process of harvest and ensilage in both farms. It was found that the silage risk level in farm B was almost twice that in farm A. This was confirmed by a lower quality of silages obtained in farm B.