

Forage Fermentation Shrink¹ (% of DM) Guidelines

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Fermentation Shrink (% of original DM)				
	Legume	Grass	Corn Silage	Small Grain
Mean	4.3	4.4	3.2	4.0
Median	3.0	3.0	2.4	3.0
Goal²	< 2.0	< 2.0	< 1.5	< 2.0
Max	35.0 and greater			

¹Shrink determined by applying Goeser et al. (2015) equation to four years of wet chemistry fermentation product results for legume, grass, corn, and small grain silages.

²Goals represent the lower 15th percentile of results

Note: Fermentation shrink represents sugar or readily digestible forage losses during fermentation and does not offer insight into harvest or feed-out losses.

References

Goeser, J.P., C.R. Heuer, P. Crump. 2015. Forage fermentation product measures are related to dry matter loss through meta-analysis. Prof. Anim. Sci. 31:137-145.