

# BIOTALK

Delivering forage and nutrition technologies

June 2010

## National forage survey confirms benefits of wholecrop

Results from the recent National Forage Survey sponsored by Biotal, British Seed Houses, Syngenta and Dairy Farmer show some real benefits from growing wholecrop, and this could be good news for dairy farmers after the difficult grass silage season.

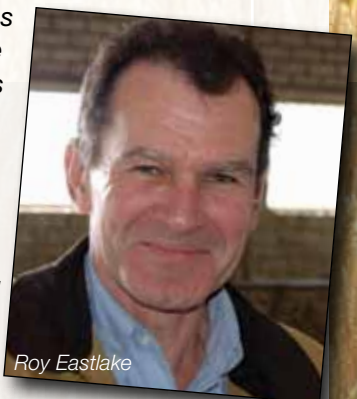
*"The dry and late grass silage season has resulted in many light crops with harvest commonly two weeks later than usual,"* comments Biotal National Technical Support Manager Roy Eastlake. *"This will leave many farmers facing a forage shortfall and in many cases this can be filled effectively by making wholecrop."*

Based on the quantity and quality of first cut Mr Eastlake advises it might be prudent to make wholecrop to boost forage stocks. The results of the forage survey confirm that feeding mixed forages can have a beneficial effect on milk yields.

*"The Survey showed that those farms where mixed forages are fed, are on average producing over 1,100 litres per cow more than those farms which relied solely upon grass silage. Mixed forage encourages higher forage intake, increases rumen health and also reduces diet sorting"*

*"To ensure a palatable well-fermented forage we would recommend treating wholecrop with an additive proven in well-designed scientific trials. The Survey shows the benefits of using silage additives with herds fed on treated silage producing on average 900 litres per cow more than herds fed untreated silage."*

*"Well made wholecrop silage could be the saving grace on many dairy farms this year faced with lower than expected first cut grass silage crops,"* Mr Eastlake concludes.



Roy Eastlake

Come and see us at  
**Cereals 2010**  
June 9th & 10th

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