

# Simple test recommended to ensure silage wrap quality

DURAPAK AGRI, the Cork based Agri Whole-salers, are advising farmers to be wary of cheap plastic wrap on the market and, if they really want to be sure of getting top quality product, they should insist on Durapak Hi-Tac or they should spot weigh a few reels of plastic when they purchase the product.

According to Seamus O'Callaghan, Durapak Hi-Tac with the corrugated core is between 12-16% heavier than most brands on the market and has proved to be very popular with contractors and farmers over the last 18 years. Durapak Hi-Tac is a highly developed three layer co-extruded blown stretch film and is up to 10 gauge (2 micron) thicker than some of the lighter plastics on the market. Farmers may not be aware of these lighter plastics and contractors, under pressure because of the recession and the credit crunch, may resort to using these lighter and

Table 1 Typical Retail Price Lists at Co-op/Merchant premises		
	Price/Reel	Price/Kilo plastic
<b>Durapak Hi-Tac</b>	€79.00	€2.82
<b>Brand V</b>	€78.00	€3.00
<b>Brand S</b>	€77.00	€3.08
<b>Brands X Y Z</b>	€76.00	€3.04

*Durapak Hi-Tac – most competitively priced per kilo. Prices include VAT & levies.*

cheaper films. Mr O'Callaghan advises farmers that they can carry out a simple test to ensure they are getting top quality wrap. Farmers can weigh the reels which should weigh about 27.5 – 28.5 kilos per reel for a 750mm x 1500m reel, if they are up to specification.

The main advantage of thicker, heavier plastic is that it provides a better oxygen barrier than thinner films. This helps to keep air and water out of the bale, thus ensuring better quality forage all the time. And better quality silage will mean enhanced

performance in terms of extra milk and increased daily liveweight gains in beef cattle. When making your decision to purchase plastic, yes, Durapak Hi-Tac will nearly always be a few Euro higher than other brands on the market, but when ordering plastic farmers and contractors should look at more than the price per reel. Typically Durapak Hi-Tac will be at the top of the list in terms of price per reel, but on closer examination, you will also find that Durapak Hi-Tac is the most competitively priced film when looked at

in terms of price per kilo of plastic.

Table 1 clearly demonstrates this point when you look at the price per reel, Durapak Hi-Tac at €79/reel is above the rest, however Durapak Hi-Tac is also the most competitive product when looked at in terms of price per kilo, as it is €2.82 per kilo and its nearest rival is over 6% more expensive when analysed in the same light.

As in everything in life, the saying that 'you only get what you pay for' is very relevant and farmers should avoid falling into the trap of joining the 'penny wise and pound foolish brigade'. They should insist on Durapak Hi-Tac as it is the most competitively priced product when looked at per kilo of plastic. The resulting benefit is a better oxygen barrier and more protection for your forage ensuring better preserved silage.

Durapak Hi-Tac has tack or cling on both sides of the plastic, a light level on the outside and a high level on the inside, so that the plastic layers bond tightly together. Because of the superior tack level, Durapak Hi-Tac works really well with automatic machines and when the plastic is cut it tends to sit on the corner of the bale, rather than unwinding leaving long tails blowing loose which happens with some other makes. Thicker, heavier plastic definitely provides a better barrier against air than thinner material.

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### DURAPAK HI-TAC®

Farmers & Contractors have been buying Durapak Hi-Tac consistently over the last 18 years to ensure that they get top quality silage every time.



The heavier, thicker film helps to increase the oxygen barrier keeping air and water out, thus ensuring well preserved silage all the time.

Contact Paula, John or Jan at Durapak Agri for details of your local stockist.

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