

## Suggestions for the Use of the AgFlex® Bag

### AgFlex® Storage Site

- Place bags on a well drained, hard, level surface. Crushed gravel, sand, concrete, and asphalt are ideal sites.
- Locate AgFlex® bags in areas that allow for easy removal of feeds.
- Protect the storage area from livestock.
- Protect AgFlex® bags from wind damage.
- Secure loose ends with weight.

### Maintenance of AgFlex® Bags

- Inspect on a regular basis and mend holes with patch tape.
- Do not allow dogs, cats, and other animals to climb on the AgFlex® bags.
- Number and date your AgFlex® bags for easy identification of materials bagged.

### Filling the AgFlex® Bag with Silage

- Do not allow the feed to become contaminated with dirt.
- Ensilage your crop at proper maturity and moisture (58%–68%).
- Do not allow the bagging machine to remain hooked up to the bag for long periods of time with feed still left in the hopper or tunnel.
- Vent immediately after sealing for a period of 72 hours or as required.

### Stretch Indicator

- Follow the manufacturer's recommended directions on the correct use of the stretch indicator.
- The AgFlex® indicator can be stretched to a total measurement of 14".
- Measure from the outside perimeter of the printed stretch bar.

### Venting the AgFlex® Bag

- Place a 3–4 inch strip of patch tape at the end of the bag.

- Using a utility knife, place a 1–1½ inch slit through the patch tape and the silage bag.
- When the pressure from the escaping gas cannot be detected by touch, reseal the silage bag with another 3–4 inch strip of patch tape.
- Do *not* breath in the escaping gases (the gases are toxic).
- When filling with grains, do not vent.

### Rodent Control

- Monitor the silage bags on a regular basis for any rodent, bird, or livestock damage.
- Repair any holes or tears with patch tape or patch paint.
- Do not use elemental sulfur or any chemical means for rodent/pest control. Life expectancy of the polyethylene film is greatly reduced when exposed to chemicals.
- Keep the bag storage yard clean of garbage and free from weeds.
- Control weeds and grasses through mechanical means or through the use of Roundup® (manufactured by Monsanto).
- Ideal storage sites include a gravel/sand-based site, concrete, or asphalt.

### Feeding the Silage

- Have your feed tested.
- Balance your rations.
- Avoid stressing the bag during unloading.
- Trim excess plastic and properly dispose of or recycle it.

### Sealing the Bag

- Use ¾" rope provided with AgFlex® to seal starting end.
- Tying off at two locations, several inches apart is preferable.
- Polyfastener sealing strips are a good option for the finishing end.
- Weigh down any loose plastic on finishing end to prevent wind damage.

