



ევროკავშირი
საქართველოსთვის
The European Union for Georgia



Use of potatoes for animal feed: The French experience

Arnaud Brette, International Expert, FinExCoop Georgia





Potatoes for animal feed, a source of energy at attractive prices





High in energy, the inexpensive potato can replace the supply of cereals in the rations of dairy cattle or meat. While it is sometimes difficult to store it in a pile, silage can be a good solution



The potato contains about 20% dry matter for 80% water.

It is a very palatable product, which works well for young feeder cattle, as well as dairy cows with a positive effect on rates. And unlike cereals, there is no flattening, which saves time and money.



Rich in energy (1.20 UFL) and presenting a slower starch and therefore less acidogenic than that of wheat, the potato is a more attractive livestock feed for grass-based rations than for those based on of corn silage, already rich in energy. However, potatoes provide a juicy and fresh product in corn silage that is a little too dry.





When fresh, the potato can be fed as is, whole, unwashed and raw. The risk of suffocation is minimal, especially if the potatoes are attacked by the mixer. It is still better to keep the cows locked in the yoke to prevent them from raising their heads too much. It also avoids competition because the dominant cows could win a large number of potatoes, at the risk of catching a good colic!

This is because, like young grass, potatoes are rich in water and potassium. The laxative effect is easy to control up to 10 gross kilos per animal, or even more if the ration is well set, sufficiently fibrous and does not exceed 25% starch in dairy cows and up to 35% in fattening. It is advisable to make a food transition over a week in two or three times, reducing as much the cereal supplementation



After harvest, the supply will be large-caliber ware potatoes, stored in the fridge. This means that you have to be able to sell the shipment within a month, as the potatoes rot quickly after they take them out of the cold room.

Store them in a cool, dark place to prevent (toxic) greening and sprouting of the tubers. Storage on an exterior concrete slab with a straw cover on the pile is more suitable than tarpaulin. There is little risk in distributing frozen potatoes; on the other hand, they will start to rot very quickly after the thaw.

