

Estimating Silage Value

The typical density of silage can range from 12 to 20 pounds of dry matter (DM) per cubic foot. Use the equation below to estimate the value of silage. For the amount of silage (tons DM) in a silo, see Approximate Dry Matter Capacities of Tower Silos on page 251.

$$\text{silage value (\$)} = \text{amount (tons DM)} \times \text{price (\$/ton)}$$

Example

A top-loaded tower silo with a diameter of 24 feet was originally filled to a height of 80 feet. The top 30 feet were removed, so 50 feet remain. The value of the silage is \$100 per ton of DM.

When filled, this 24 x 80 silo held approximately 334 tons of DM (see Approximate Dry Matter Capacities of Tower Silos on page 251). The top 30 feet held the equivalent of 24 x 30, or approximately 84 tons DM. The bottom 50 feet contain 334-84 (the full capacity minus the removed amount), or 250 tons DM.

Using the equation above, the amount (tons DM) is 250 and the price is \$100 per ton of DM, so the value of the silage is \$25,000:

$$250 \text{ tons DM} \times \$100/\text{ton of DM} = \$25,000$$