

# Replacing grass silage with pea-barley intercrop silage in the feeding of the dairy cow

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The effect of replacing wilted grass silage (GS) with pea-barley intercrop silage (PBS) on feed intake, diet digestibility and milk production was studied with 8 multiparous Ayrshire-cows in a replicated  $4 \times 4$  Latin square experiment. Proportion of PBS was 0 (PBS0), 33 (PBS33), 67 (PBS67) or 100 (PBS100) % of silage dry matter (DM). The DM content was 559 and 255 g kg<sup>-1</sup> for GS and PBS. Crude protein content was 131 and 170 g kg<sup>-1</sup> DM, respectively. Pea-barley silage was more extensively fermented than GS with total fermentation acid content of 120 vs. 12 g kg<sup>-1</sup> DM. Silage was fed for *ad libitum* intake and supplemented with on the average 13 kg concentrate per day. Silage DM intake was 9.2 (PBS0), 9.7 (PBS33), 9.0 (PBS67) and 7.1 (PBS100) kg per day ( $P_{\text{quadr.}} < 0.05$ ). The energy corrected milk yield [30.3 (PBS0), 29.8 (PBS33), 30.3 (PBS67), 31.3 (PBS100) kg per day] was not significantly affected by the treatment. Milk protein concentration decreased linearly ( $P < 0.05$ ) in response to feeding PBS. It is concluded that PBS can replace up to two thirds of wilted, moderate quality GS in the feeding of dairy cows because in this experiment pure pea-barley silage reduced silage intake.

*Key words:* peas, barley, intercrops, whole crop silage, legumes, silage, dairy cows, feeding

## Introduction

In Finland milk production is based on grass silage. Whole-crop cereal silage has been recently studied as an alternative to or in combination with grass silage in dairy cow feeding (Jaakkola et al. 2001, 2003) as it offers several benefits for the farms which are specialized in grass production. It increases available area to spread manure which intensifies manure utilisation. Whole crop silage

can be harvested with the same machinery as grass silage. In addition, there is an increasing interest to improve the efficiency of N utilisation for milk production, which often is relatively low due to high degradable crude protein (CP) content in grass silage. Excessive amounts of rumen degradable protein leads to high N losses in rumen and eventually to the environment (Givens and Rulquin 2004). Mixing grass silage with less CP and more fermentable energy containing whole-crop cereal silage could improve N utilisation (Huhtanen and

Shingfield 2005). However, when feeding mixtures of grass and whole-crop silage, extra work and machinery are required to mix different silages. Furthermore, keeping two silos open at the same time may impair the quality of the silages through aerobic deterioration. These problems are avoided by cultivating mixtures of legume and cereal crop for intercrop silage production. Intercropping can considerably increase the feeding value of whole-crop cereal silage (Lunnan 1989, Mustafa et al. 2000) as legumes can improve the digestibility of the silage (Salawu et al. 2001). Legumes can also diminish the annual variability in the feeding value of pure whole-crop cereal silage resulting from the changes in ear-to-straw ratio. Highly significant is also the fact that cultivating N-fixating legumes reduces the need to use N fertilizers (Lunnan 1989).

Limited information on milk production in cows fed pea-barley intercrop silage is available. The objective of this experiment was to compare the effects of pea-barley intercrop silage with grass silage on feed intake, digestibility, milk production, milk composition and feed utilisation in dairy cows. In addition, the development of the chemical composition of intercrop component plants was studied.

## Material and methods

### Forages

The experiment was carried out at the Viikki Research Farm of the University of Helsinki, Finland. A mixture of field pea (*Pisum sativum* 'Perttu') and barley (*Hordeum vulgare* 'Mette') was sown on 22 May 2002 at seed rates of 208 and 127 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> (55 and 250 germinating seeds per m<sup>2</sup>), respectively. Fertilizers were not applied. Pea-barley intercrop was harvested with a condition mower (JF 2800 Hydroflex) 10 weeks after sowing and conserved (Welger RP220) in approximately 900 kg round bales. A formic acid based preservative (AIV2000; 550 g formic acid, 240 g ammonium formate, 50 g propionic acid, 10 g ethylbenzoate,

10 g benzoic acid per kg) was used at 5 litres per 1000 kg fresh forage. Ensiling started only four hours after mowing due to unstable weather conditions and was interrupted by a breakdown of the baler when approximately half of the area was baled. Ensiling continued next day about 24 hours after mowing. However, the dry matter (DM) content of forage was not markedly affected between the two ensilings (206 and 243 g kg<sup>-1</sup>). The growth stage of pea at harvest was between early and full pod. Barley was at early dough stage. Primary growth of timothy (*Phleum pratense*) and meadow fescue (*Festuca pratensis*) sward was harvested for control silage at heading. After one day wilting grass was ensiled in round bales with the same preservative and application rate as the pea-barley silage.

### Animals, experimental design and feeding

Eight multiparous Ayrshire cows were used in two 4 × 4 Latin squares with 24-d periods comprising a 17-d adjustment period and 7-d sampling period. Cows were kept in short stalls. Cows in square one were fitted with rumen cannulae. At the beginning of the experiment cows in square one were between 130–158 days in milk and in square two between 56–91 days in milk. Milk yield was 31.5 (SD 4.8) and 40.6 (SD 2.1) kg per day and live weight 595 (SD 36.2) and 630 (SD 54.9) kg for cows in square one and two, respectively.

On a dry matter (DM) basis 0 (PBS0), 33 (PBS33), 67 (PBS67) or 100 (PBS100) % of grass silage (GS) was replaced with pea-barley intercrop silage (PBS). Silages for the mixtures were weighed separately and mixed by hand. Silage was given three times per day (0500, 1300, 2000). To ensure *ad libitum* intake the amount of refusals was targeted to be at least 0.10 of the total daily portion. Dairy concentrate compound (manufactured by Suomen Rehu Oy, Finland) was given at 12 (square 1) or 14.5 (square 2) kg per day and distributed in six even meals (0500, 0800, 1100, 1400, 1700, 2000). Concentrate consisted of (%): barley 31.7, sugar beet pulp 21, rapeseed meal 19, wheat 10, molasses 6, barley malt feed 5, soya

bean meal 3, rapeseed oil 0.8, propylene glycol 0.8 and minerals, micronutrients and vitamins supplement 2.7 respectively. Feed offered and feed refused were recorded daily.

### Sampling, chemical analysis and measurements

The intercrop stand was sampled once a week from the full bloom of the pea to harvest for determining the development of the chemical composition of pea and barley (Table 1). At each sampling, plants from four randomly chosen 50 × 50 cm plots were manually cut at approximately 5 cm above the ground. Pea and barley plants were separated and weighed for calculating the proportions of the component crops in the stand. After weighing plants were chopped and sampled for determining the DM content and the chemical composition. In addition, part of the pea plants were separated into

botanical fractions of stems (including petioles), leaves, tendrils, flowers (involving buds) and pods. The proportion of different fractions in the dried plant and the chemical composition of each fraction were determined. Barley was analysed only as a whole plant. The average height of intercrops was determined by measuring the height of three randomly chosen pea and barley plants before cutting. Sub-samples from the windrows of pea-barley intercrop and timothy-meadow fescue grass were collected at the outset of baling and pooled to two samples, respectively, for analysing the DM content and the chemical composition of the silage raw material.

Silages were sampled daily during the last seven days of each experimental period for analysing the DM content, chemical composition and fermentation quality. Samples were stored at –20°C until analysed. Before analyses daily samples were pooled to form one sample per period. Samples from the silage refusals were collected daily from each cow during the last seven days of

Table 1. Chemical composition of whole crop pea and whole crop barley with advancing maturity and that of pea-barley intercrop silage and grass silage raw materials (N = 1, except for pea-barley intercrop N = 2).

Sampling date	Pea			Barley			Pea-barley intercrop	Timothy-meadow fescue
	9.7. <sup>1</sup>	16.7. <sup>2</sup>	23.7. <sup>3</sup>	9.7. <sup>4</sup>	16.7. <sup>5</sup>	23.7. <sup>6</sup>	23.7./24.7. <sup>7</sup>	11.6.
Dry matter (DM) (g kg <sup>-1</sup> )	148	177	188	158	203	215	225	459
Chemical composition (g kg <sup>-1</sup> DM)								
Ash	72	64	60	109	90	88	67	72
Crude protein	212	187	160	160	134	130	151	137
Crude fat	39	29	28	33	31	30	27	39
Neutral detergent fibre	361	335	392	614	578	542	436	549
Acid detergent fibre	279	244	261	357	315	290	288	268
Acid detergent lignin	35	29	28	23	16	16	30	20
Water soluble carbohydrates	115	174	160	44	91	52	132	117
Starch	119	190	198	29	68	177	155	ND
Buffering capacity (meq kg <sup>-1</sup> DM)	ND	ND	808	ND	ND	532	880	667

<sup>1</sup>Full bloom, at the beginning of pod formation; <sup>2</sup>Blooming nearly finished, seed formation in the lowest pods; <sup>3</sup>Blooming over, full lower pods, flat upper pods; <sup>4</sup>Heading; <sup>5</sup>Between milk and early dough stage; <sup>6</sup>Early dough stage; <sup>7</sup>Average values from the two samplings from the windrows before baling; ND = not determined

each period for determining the DM content. Samples were stored and pooled similarly as silage samples. Concentrate was sampled daily throughout the experiment. The DM content of the concentrate was determined once per period. For the chemical analyses periodical samples were pooled to one.

The DM content of all samples was determined by 24 h oven-drying at +105°C. Plant and feed samples for the analysis of chemical composition were oven-dried (1 h +102°C and 48 h +50°C) and then ground through a 1 mm sieve. Chemical analysis was made according to the proximate feed analysis. Ash content was determined by ashing the samples in a furnace at 600°C. Ether extraction of samples was performed after hydrolysis with HCl. Neutral detergent fibre (NDF), acid detergent fibre (ADF) and acid detergent lignin (ADL) analyses were performed according to the method of Van Soest et al. (1991) ash excluded. The indigestible neutral detergent fibre (INDF) content of silages and concentrate was determined by 12 days ruminal incubation in nylon bags (pore size 6 µm). Starch content was analysed according to Salo and Salmi (1968) without ethanol extraction. Buffering capacity of the silage raw materials was measured according to Weissbach (1992). The *in vitro* organic matter (OM) digestibility and D-value (digestible organic matter content in dry matter) of silages was determined using cellulase method according to Friedel (1990).

Silage pH was measured from the extracted fluid or after 20 minutes soaking of sample-distilled water mix (1:1). All values describing the fermentation quality of the silages were determined from the water extract of the silage samples. Contents of lactic acid, ammonia N, total N, soluble N and water soluble carbohydrates (WSC) were analysed as described by Kokkonen et al. (2000). Volatile fatty acids (VFA) were determined using the gas chromatography (Huhtanen et al. 1998). Ethanol content was determined by enzymatic procedure (commercial kit no 176290, Boehr-ing Mannheim GmbH, Germany). The DM content of the silages was corrected for volatile losses of lactic acid, VFAs, ethanol and ammonia N according to Huida et al. (1986).

Cows were milked twice a day. Milk yield was recorded (Tru-Test FV, Tru-Test Ltd., New Zealand) at every milking. Samples for analyses were taken at four consecutive milkings in the last week of each experimental period and pooled to form one sample per cow. Samples were stored with preservative (Bronopol tablets, Valio Ltd., Finland) until analysed for fat, protein, lactose and urea content (infrared analyser MilkoScan FT6000). Samples for analysing the fatty acid content of milk were taken from the pooled sample from the cows in square 2 and stored at -20°C without preservative.

Milk fatty acids were analysed according to Griinari et al. (1998) with modifications as follows. Lipids were extracted from the milk (1 ml sample) using a mixture of diethyl ether and hexane according to reference procedure (IDF 1C:1987; IDF 16C:1987, International Dairy Federation, Brussels, Belgium). The fatty acids were then methylated by sodium methoxide using a procedure described by Christie (1982). The sample was resolubilized in two milliliters of hexane and 40 µl of methyl acetate was added. Following vortexing 40 µl of freshly prepared methylating agent (1M sodium methoxide) was added. The mixture was vortexed and allowed to react for 5 min at room temperature. The reaction was stopped with 60µl of oxalic acid in hexane (saturating concentration) and CaCl<sub>2</sub> was added to remove methanol residues. After 1 h at the earliest the sample was centrifuged at 3000 rpm for 3 min leaving a clear layer of hexane from which an aliquot was taken for gas chromatograph analysis. Fatty acid analysis was carried out using a Hewlett-Packard 5890 gas chromatograph (Wilmington, DE, USA) equipped with a flame-ionization detector, automatic injector, split injection port and a 100 m fused silica capillary column (i.d., 0.25 mm) coated with 0.2 µm film of cyanopropyl polysiloxane (CP-SIL 88; Chrompack 7489, Middelburg, The Netherlands). Helium was used as the carrier gas.

For organoleptic testing (smell and taste) cooled milk samples from one morning milking (square 2) were sent to the National Veterinary and Food Research Institute. Five experts tasted milk

separately and graded it using a five-point scale from 0 (unsuitable for human consumption) to 5 (excellent).

Cows were weighed on two consecutive days at the beginning of the experiment and at the end of each period. If the difference between the two weighings was more than 10 kg an extra weighing was made on the third day. Live weight at the end of period was corrected according to change in feed intake between the beginning and the end of period. The *in vivo* apparent digestibility of the diet was determined using acid insoluble ash (AIA) as an internal marker (Van Keulen and Young 1977). Faecal grab samples were taken twice a day (0700 and 1500 hours) for five consecutive days during the last week in each experimental period. Samples were frozen immediately and stored at  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$ . For the chemical analyses samples were oven-dried at  $+60^{\circ}\text{C}$  until dry and then ground through 1.5 mm sieve. The DM content and the chemical composition were determined using the same methods as with feeds. The total N content was determined from the fresh samples using the Kjeldahl method.

Rumen liquid was collected one day in the last week of each period before morning feeding and then 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8 and 10 h after the morning feeding. The pH of the samples was measured immediately. Samples were then filtered through a cheese cloth and ammonia N was measured. Samples of rumen fluid (10 ml) for determination of VFAs were preserved with 1 ml of saturated mercury chloride and 4 ml of 1 M sodium hydroxide and stored at  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Rumen ammonia N and VFA concentrations were determined using the same methods as described for determination of silage fermentation quality.

## Calculations and statistical methods

Metabolizable energy (ME) values of silages and concentrate were calculated according to Finnish Feed Tables (MTT 2004). The supply of amino acids absorbed from the small intestine (AAT) was calculated according to Finnish Feed Tables (MTT 2004). Statistical analyses concerning production

results were calculated using MIXED procedure of SAS (Littell et al. 1996). Data was based on the mean values from the last seven days of each experimental period. The model used included square, period, square  $\times$  period interaction and treatment as fixed factor, with cow within the square as the random factor. Interaction between square and treatment was not significant and was excluded. Treatment effects were further studied using orthogonal polynomial contrasts to provide linear (lin.), quadratic (quadr.) and cubic (cub.) effects of PBS proportion. Results of *in vivo* apparent diet digestibility were calculated using the same model. The effect of the experimental diets on diurnal variation in rumen fermentation was analysed by repeated measures with the MIXED procedure of SAS. The model used included treatment, period, cow, time and treatment  $\times$  time interaction as fixed factors and time and cow in the period as random factors.

From one cow all data of two experimental periods (udder inflammation and problems with the rumen cannulae) and from one cow all data of one period (udder inflammation) was excluded when calculating the results. Both cows belonged to square 1.

## Results

### Intercrop and feed composition

Development of the chemical composition of the whole crop pea and the whole crop barley with advancing maturity and the chemical composition of forages before ensiling is shown in Table 1. The CP content of both pea and barley plants decreased during maturation. The NDF content of pea increased and that of barley decreased with advancing maturity. The starch content of pea increased by  $5.6 \text{ g kg}^{-1} \text{ DM}$  per day from the full bloom until harvest and that of barley by  $10.6 \text{ g kg}^{-1} \text{ DM}$  per day.

At harvest pea was at pod fill stage and had higher concentrations of CP, ADL, starch and WSC

and lower concentrations of DM, ash and NDF compared to barley. Barley was at early dough stage at harvest. The proportion of pea in the intercrop was 740 g kg<sup>-1</sup> DM. The height of the stand was 94 cm for pea and 89 cm for barley. The average DM content of pea-barley intercrop at the outset of baling was 225 g kg<sup>-1</sup> and that of timothy-meadow fescue grass 459 g kg<sup>-1</sup>. Pea-barley intercrop contained more CP and less NDF compared to timothy-meadow fescue grass.

The results from the botanical separations of pea plants are presented in Table 2. At the beginning of flowering stems formed nearly half of the DM of pea plant. During maturation the proportion of stems decreased whereas the proportion of tendrils and particularly pods increased. At harvest pods accounted for half of the DM of the pea plant. Leaves and pods were the most protein-rich fractions as stems and tendrils were abundant in fibre. From the end stages of the blooming until harvest WSC content of pea pods decreased by 28% while starch content increased by 21%. At harvest pods contained starch 354 g kg<sup>-1</sup> DM. The proportion of pea seeds from the total pod DM was 615 g kg<sup>-1</sup>. Pea seeds contained CP 281, NDF 157, WSC 78 and starch 391 g kg<sup>-1</sup> DM.

The average chemical composition of feeds is given in Table 3. Pea-barley intercrop silage contained more CP and INDF and less DM, NDF and WSC than grass silage. In addition, pH value was lower and concentrations of lactic acid, ammonia N and soluble N higher in PBS than in GS. Both silages were very low in butyric acid. The D-value was similar among the silages.

### Diet digestibility and feed intake

Replacing wilted GS with PBS had no effect on apparent digestibility of diet OM and CP (Table 4). However, digestibility of diet NDF decreased linearly ( $P < 0.01$ ) as the proportion of PBS in the feeding increased. Silage intake changed curvilinearly ( $P < 0.05$ ) in response to increasing the proportion of PBS in the diet (Table 4). Cows fed PBS33 had the highest silage dry matter intake (DMI) (9.7 kg per day) and cows fed PBS100 had

Table 2. Chemical composition of the different fractions of whole crop pea with advancing maturity (N = 1).

Sampling date	Stem			Leaf			Tendrill			Pod <sup>1</sup>					
	2.7. <sup>2</sup>	9.7. <sup>3</sup>	16.7. <sup>4</sup>	23.7. <sup>5</sup>	2.7. <sup>2</sup>	9.7. <sup>3</sup>	16.7. <sup>4</sup>	23.7. <sup>5</sup>	2.7. <sup>2</sup>	9.7. <sup>3</sup>	16.7. <sup>4</sup>	23.7. <sup>5</sup>	9.7. <sup>3</sup>	16.7. <sup>4</sup>	23.7. <sup>5</sup>
Dry matter (DM) (g kg <sup>-1</sup> )	146	136	202	194	174	141	201	156	128	163	239	214	120	181	233
Proportion in the whole plant (g kg <sup>-1</sup> DM) <sup>6</sup>	439	374	276	199	261	178	179	111	251	343	248	157	62	292	501
Chemical composition (g kg <sup>-1</sup> DM)															
Ash	75	76	61	65	92	103	96	107	50	57	53	58	66	47	37
Crude protein	134	133	119	84	324	330	274	259	192	174	128	109	342	245	221
Crude fat	19	20	17	14	62	76	67	68	35	34	29	29	33	21	21
Neutral detergent fibre	420	485	468	503	143	158	144	149	400	448	438	477	351	237	245
Acid detergent fibre	303	351	336	385	91	102	91	109	285	324	317	364	106	114	123
Acid detergent lignin	39	44	46	54	0	1	0	3	35	37	36	40	2	0	0
Water soluble carbohydrates	143	114	166	171	47	44	107	86	183	91	164	113	108	260	186
Starch	145	117	174	159	0	40	88	61	96	87	125	103	204	293	354

<sup>1</sup>Pods not found 2.7.; <sup>2</sup>At the beginning of flowering; <sup>3</sup>Full bloom, at the beginning of pod formation; <sup>4</sup>Blooming nearly finished, seed formation in the lowest pods; <sup>5</sup>Blooming over, full lower pods; <sup>6</sup>Proportions of (flowers + buds) and dead plant material are not included because of negligible amounts.

Table 3. Chemical composition, fermentation quality and feeding value of the feeds.

	Grass silage N=4	Pea-barley silage N=4	Concentrate N=1
Dry matter (DM) (g kg <sup>-1</sup> )	559	255	871
pH	5.16	3.96	
Chemical composition (g kg <sup>-1</sup> DM)			
Ash	69	73	75
Crude protein	131	170	192
Crude fat	34	27	48
Neutral detergent fibre	557	419	284
Acid detergent fibre	274	260	95
Acid detergent lignin	5	19	18
Indigestible neutral detergent fibre	92	156	52
Water soluble carbohydrates	139	30	89
Starch	ND	100	325
Lactic acid	5	104	
Acetic acid	6	15	
Propionic acid	0.42	0.41	
Butyric acid	0.18	0.16	
Ethanol	2.3	6.5	
Ammonia N (g kg <sup>-1</sup> total N)	31	108	
Soluble N (g kg <sup>-1</sup> total N)	517	751	
Digestible organic matter (g kg <sup>-1</sup> DM) <sup>1</sup>	660	650	
Metabolizable energy (MJ kg <sup>-1</sup> DM) <sup>2</sup>	10.5	10.0	12.9
Amino acids absorbed from the small intestine (g kg <sup>-1</sup> DM) <sup>2</sup>	81	82	115
Protein balance in the rumen (g kg <sup>-1</sup> DM) <sup>2</sup>	-6	30	8
Silage DM intake index <sup>3</sup>	105	87	

<sup>1</sup>According to Friedel (1990); <sup>2</sup>According to Finnish Feed Tables (MTT 2004);

<sup>3</sup>According to Huhtanen et al. (2002): Silage DM intake index =  $100 + 1.151 \times [D\text{-value (g kg}^{-1}\text{ DM)} - 690] - 0.000531 \times [\text{total acids (g kg}^{-1}\text{ DM)}^2 - 6400] - 4.7650[\text{Ln}(\text{Ammonia N (g kg}^{-1}\text{ total N)}) - \text{Ln}(50)]$ ; ND = not determined

the lowest silage dry matter intake (DMI) (7.1 kg per day). As there was no difference in the intake of concentrate the effect of replacing GS with PBS on the proportion of concentrate in the diet (g kg<sup>-1</sup> DM) and on the total DMI was curvilinear ( $P < 0.05$ ). The effect of treatment on CP intake was also curvilinear ( $P < 0.05$ ). Intake of NDF decreased and that of starch increased ( $P_{\text{quadr.}} < 0.05$ ) as the proportion of PBS in the feeding increased. Feeding PBS had curvilinear ( $P < 0.05$ ) effects on AAT and ME intake.

## Rumen fermentation

Rumen pH ( $P_{\text{lin.}} < 0.10$ ) and ammonia N concentration increased ( $P_{\text{lin.}} < 0.05$ ) as the proportion of PBS in the diet increased (Table 5). Concentration of VFA in the rumen fluid was not affected by the treatment. However, proportion of acetic acid in the VFA decreased and that of propionic acid increased in a cubic manner ( $P < 0.05$ ) in response to feeding PBS. Replacing GS with PBS resulted in a linear increase ( $P < 0.01$ ) in proportions of the

Table 4. The effect of the treatment on *in vivo* apparent digestibility of the diet and feed and nutrient intake.

	Treatment <sup>1</sup>				SEM	Contrasts <sup>2</sup>	
	PBS0 N=7	PBS33 N=7	PBS67 N=8	PBS100 N=7		Linear	Quadratic
Diet digestibility (g kg <sup>-1</sup> )							
Organic matter	710	696	707	704	10.3		
Crude protein	669	650	665	673	12.2		
Neutral detergent fibre	592	576	561	531	15.2	**	
Intake							
Silage [kg dry matter (DM) d <sup>-1</sup> ]	9.2	9.7	9.0	7.1	0.72	**	*
Concentrate (kg DM d <sup>-1</sup> )	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	0.13		
Total (kg DM d <sup>-1</sup> )	20.8	21.1	20.4	18.5	0.70	**	*
Concentrate content (g kg <sup>-1</sup> DM)	560	550	570	630	21.5	**	*
Organic matter (kg d <sup>-1</sup> )	19.3	19.6	19.0	17.2	0.65	**	*
Crude protein (g d <sup>-1</sup> )	3447	3617	3634	3419	105.1		*
Neutral detergent fibre (g d <sup>-1</sup> )	8400	8176	7436	6210	341.2	***	*
Indigestible neutral detergent fibre (g d <sup>-1</sup> )	1468	1723	1822	1702	94.3	*	*
Cell solubles (g d <sup>-1</sup> ) <sup>3</sup>	10863	11455	11569	10983	310	*	
Water soluble carbohydrates (g d <sup>-1</sup> )	2269	1988	1622	1253	67.2	***	
Starch (g d <sup>-1</sup> )	3743	4065	4334	4424	62.5	***	*
Amino acids absorbed from the small intestine (g d <sup>-1</sup> ) <sup>4</sup>	2071	2108	2059	1906	55.9	*	*
Metabolizable energy (MJ d <sup>-1</sup> ) <sup>5</sup>	219	219	215	193	6.5	**	*

<sup>1</sup> PBS0 = grass silage 100% of the silage DM; PBS33 = grass silage 67%, pea-barley silage 33% of the silage DM;

PBS67 = grass silage 33%, pea-barley silage 67% of the silage DM; PBS100 = pea-barley silage 100% of the silage DM

<sup>2</sup> No significant cubic effects; <sup>3</sup> Organic matter-neutral detergent fibre; <sup>4</sup> According to Finnish Feed Tables (MTT 2004)

<sup>5</sup> Based on *in vivo* apparent digestibility

Statistical significance \*\*\* = P < 0.001, \*\* = P < 0.01, \* = P < 0.05, o = P < 0.10

branched-chain volatile fatty acids (BCVFA); isobutyric acid and isovaleric acid. No interactions were found between treatments and the time of sampling for any rumen fermentation parameters.

### Milk yield, milk composition and feed utilisation

Milk yield increased linearly (P < 0.05) as the proportion of PBS in the diet increased (Table 6) in spite of the impaired silage intake. However, increase in energy-corrected milk (ECM) yield was not significant. Treatment neither affected milk fat

nor lactose concentrations (Table 6). Milk protein concentration decreased linearly (P < 0.05) with increasing amount of PBS. Milk fat yield was not affected by the treatment. Milk protein yield tended to change quadratically (P < 0.10) and lactose yield tended to increase linearly (P < 0.10) in response to increasing proportion of PBS in the diet. Replacing GS with PBS increased linearly (P < 0.01) milk linoleic acid (C<sub>18:2</sub>) and conjugated linoleic acid (*cis-9,trans-11*CLA) concentrations (Table 6). Considering the organoleptic quality (smell, taste) of milk, there was no distinct difference between the treatments (P<sub>cub</sub> < 0.10).

Feeding PBS increased milk urea concentration linearly (P < 0.001) (Table 6). The efficiency

Table 5. The effect of the treatment on rumen fermentation of the cows in square 1 (mean values of all sampling times).

	Treatment <sup>1</sup>				SEM	Contrasts		
	PBS0 N=3	PBS33 N=3	PBS67 N=4	PBS100 N=3		Linear	Quadratic	Cubic
pH	6.18	6.17	6.34	6.38	0.075	o		
Ammonia N, mmol/L	4.51	6.84	7.76	9.46	0.094	*		
Total VFA, mmol/L	120.0	123.1	116.5	114.8	2.66			
Mmol/mol:								
Acetic acid	644	637	639	618	2.2	*	*	*
Propionic acid	207	213	203	219	3.5			*
Butyric acid	115	112	116	117	2.7			
Isobutyric acid	6.3	7.4	8.3	9.9	0.26	**		
Isovaleric acid	7.7	10.4	11.5	14.1	0.68	**		
Valeric acid	15.1	15.1	15.4	16.4	0.31			
Caproic acid	4.5	4.8	6.0	5.6	0.36	*		

<sup>1</sup> PBS0 = grass silage 100% of the silage DM; PBS33 = grass silage 67%, pea-barley silage 33% of the silage DM; PBS67 = grass silage 33%, pea-barley silage 67% of the silage DM; PBS100 = pea-barley silage 100% of the silage DM  
 Statistical significance \*\*\* = P < 0.001, \*\* = P < 0.01, \* = P < 0.05, o = P < 0.10

of conversion of feed N into milk N differed quadratically (P < 0.001) between the treatments and was highest for pure PBS and GS. Live weight of the cows tended to increase during the experiment and was highest for PBS0 (P<sub>lin.</sub> < 0.10). The effect of replacing GS with PBS on the utilisation of ME for milk production (k<sub>j</sub>) was quadratic (P < 0.05).

## Discussion

### Intercrop and feed composition

Foreign research of the potential of legume-cereal intercrop silage in dairy cow feeding has focused on pea-wheat silage (Salawu et al. 2002a, Adegogan et al. 2004). In Finland both barley and spring wheat are suitable cereals for whole-crop silage production. In the present study barley was chosen as a companion crop for pea because only scarce information on the effects of pea-barley intercrop silage on milk production is available and,

under Finnish conditions, digestibility of whole crop barley is higher compared to that of whole crop wheat (MTT 1999). Higher digestibility is attributed to a greater ear-to-straw ratio and also to a better digestibility of straw compared with wheat. If rated according to DM yield wheat is superior to barley (MTT 1999).

Changes in the CP, NDF and starch content of both pea and barley plants during maturation are consistent with earlier studies (Åman and Graham 1987, Mannerkorpi and Taube 1995, Mustafa and Seguin 2004). In pea plant fractions, a decline in the CP content (g kg<sup>-1</sup> DM per day) from the full bloom to the harvest when the lower pods were already full was 8.6 g for pods, 5.1 g for leaves, 4.6 g for tendrils and 3.5 g for stems. Despite the greatest decline in the CP content, leaves and pods were the most protein-rich fractions of pea plant at harvest. The increase in the NDF content of pea during maturation remained moderate because the proportion of pods increased up to 500 g kg<sup>-1</sup> DM and the proportion of fibre-rich stems and tendrils decreased from around 700 g kg<sup>-1</sup> DM to 350 g kg<sup>-1</sup> DM. In addition, the NDF content of pods de-

Table 6. The effect of the treatment on milk yield, milk composition and feed utilisation.

	Treatment <sup>1</sup>				SEM	Contrasts <sup>2</sup>	
	PBS0 N=7	PBS33 N=7	PBS67 N=8	PBS100 N=7		Linear	Quadratic
Milk yield (kg d <sup>-1</sup> )	28.7	28.5	29.5	30.3	2.27	*	
Energy-corrected milk (kg d <sup>-1</sup> ) <sup>3</sup>	30.3	29.8	30.3	31.3	2.05		
Fat (g kg <sup>-1</sup> )	41.3	41.4	40.6	40.4	1.61		
Protein (g kg <sup>-1</sup> )	38.5	37.8	37.0	37.1	1.30	*	
Lactose (g kg <sup>-1</sup> )	47.5	47.6	47.3	47.4	1.08		
Fat (g d <sup>-1</sup> )	1185	1165	1178	1216	70.8		
Protein (g d <sup>-1</sup> )	1099	1063	1083	1115	75.0		o
Lactose (g d <sup>-1</sup> )	1374	1368	1408	1451	125.7	o	
Fatty acids (g per 100 g total fatty acids) <sup>4</sup>							
C <sub>4</sub> -C <sub>14</sub> <sup>5</sup>	27.14	27.17	27.11	27.07	0.465		
C <sub>16:0</sub>	30.32	30.67	31.07	29.53	0.867		*
C <sub>18:0</sub>	10.43	10.81	9.83	10.06	0.526		
C <sub>18:1</sub> transmono <sup>6</sup>	2.86	2.67	2.61	3.08	0.267		*
C <sub>18:1</sub> cis-9	18.55	18.29	18.70	19.17	0.442		
C <sub>18:2</sub>	2.06	2.19	2.22	2.45	0.101	**	
C <sub>18:3</sub>	0.58	0.56	0.52	0.55	0.025		
cis-9,trans-11CLA	0.45	0.44	0.48	0.51	0.025	**	
Milk organoleptic quality <sup>4,7</sup>	3.90	4.10	3.95	4.10	0.063		
Urea (g L <sup>-1</sup> )	0.214	0.230	0.245	0.259	0.0123	***	
Milk N/feed N <sup>8</sup>	0.31	0.29	0.29	0.32	0.021		***
Energy corrected milk (kg kg <sup>-1</sup> DM intake)	1.46	1.41	1.47	1.71	0.108	***	**
k <sub>1</sub> <sup>9, 10</sup>	0.64	0.55	0.58	0.65	0.039		*
Live weight (kg)	636	641	632	630	19.2		
Live weight change (kg d <sup>-1</sup> )	0.84	0.53	0.29	0.05	0.291	o	

<sup>1</sup> PBS0 = grass silage 100% of the silage DM; PBS33 = grass silage 67%, pea-barley silage 33% of the silage DM; PBS67 = grass silage 33%, pea-barley silage 67% of the silage DM; PBS100 = pea-barley silage 100% of the silage DM

<sup>2</sup> No significant cubic effects, except for milk organoleptic quality ( $P_{\text{cub}} < 0.10$ )

<sup>3</sup> According to Sjaunja et al. (1991): ECM (kg d<sup>-1</sup>) = milk yield (kg d<sup>-1</sup>) × [38.3 × fat (g kg<sup>-1</sup>) + 24.2 × protein (g kg<sup>-1</sup>) + 16.54 × lactose (g kg<sup>-1</sup>) + 20.7] / 3140

<sup>4</sup> Analysed from the milk of the cows in square 2 (N = 4); <sup>5</sup> Sum of C<sub>4:0</sub>, C<sub>6:0</sub>, C<sub>8:0</sub>, C<sub>10:0</sub>, C<sub>10:1</sub>, C<sub>12:0</sub> and C<sub>14:0</sub>

<sup>6</sup> Sum of C<sub>18:1</sub>(trans-6-8, trans-9, trans-10, trans-11, trans-12, trans-13 and -14, trans-15)

<sup>7</sup> Scale: 0 = unsuitable for human consumption, 1 = extremely poor, 2 = poor, 3 = satisfactory, 4 = good, 5 = excellent

<sup>8</sup> (milk protein g<sup>-d</sup> / 6.38) / (crude protein intake g<sup>-d</sup> / 6.25)

<sup>9</sup> Efficiency of utilisation of ME for milk production, live weight change included

<sup>10</sup> Based on *in vitro* (Friedel 1990) digestibility

Statistical significance \*\*\* = P < 0.001, \*\* = P < 0.01, \* = P < 0.05, o = P < 0.10

creased by 7.6 g kg<sup>-1</sup> DM per day while that of stems and tendrils increased by 1.3 and 2.1 g kg<sup>-1</sup> DM per day from the full bloom to the harvest.

The development of the chemical composition of the different pea plant fractions and changes in

their proportion of the plant DM during maturation suggests that harvest should be delayed until pod filling stage is well advanced. Particularly important for the nutritional value of the silage is the substantial increase in starch content due to rapid

increase of the proportion of pods from the total plant DM. In their experiment, Åman and Graham (1987) suggested that for ruminants pea should be harvested when pods are only partly developed to ensure high digestibility and good ensiling characteristics.

Apart from timing the harvest right, maintaining the nutritive value of forage also during harvesting is demanding. In the present study the starch content of PBS raw material at the outset of baling was clearly lower than that of either of the plants separately before mowing and after baling plenty of pieces of pods and ears were observed on the ground. This indicates that during mowing and baling part of the pods and ears were shed suggesting the importance of proper harvesting techniques to avoid harvesting losses of the most nutritive fractions.

The DM content of PBS was approximately half of the DM content of GS. The major reason for this was the difference in weather conditions between the two ensilings. Grass was ensiled during a spell of dry and warm weather (+22.7°C – +24.2°C, max. temperatures for the days of mowing and ensiling, respectively) resulting in a rapid increase in the DM content. Wilting of PBS failed due to unstable weather conditions and also during baling there was a short but heavy rainfall. Partly the low DM content of PBS could be attributed to high proportion of pea (740 g kg<sup>-1</sup> DM) in the mixture as also shown by Lunnan (1989). The DM content of pea plant tends to be low and increases slower than that of cereals during ripening (Lunnan 1989).

Due to high proportion of pea in the intercrop PBS contained 39 g more CP kg<sup>-1</sup> DM than GS. The NDF content of PBS decreased by 4% during ensiling. Hemicellulose breakdown during ensiling can be caused by hemicellulases present in the original herbage, bacterial hemicellulases or hydrolysis by organic acids which are produced during fermentation (McDonald et al. 1991). The composition of NDF differed between GS and PBS. The INDF content in the silage DM was 1.7-fold higher in PBS compared to GS. Similarly, Stensig and Robinson (1997) and Kuoppala et al. (2005) reported higher INDF concentrations in

perennial legume silage compared to grass silage. Accumulation of INDF in rumen may limit intake (Stensig and Robinson 1997). Recently, Nousiainen et al. (2003) showed that the INDF content of grass silage predicted its organic matter digestibility (OMD) more accurately than OM pepsin-cellulase solubility.

Pea-barley silage was more extensively fermented than grass silage. This was attributed to the low DM content and high buffering capacity of PBS raw material. Furthermore, the preservative may not have been correct for PBS as AIV2000 is designed for wilted silages and thus the reduction of pH in PBS may not have been adequately fast. The proportion of ammonia N in PBS exceeded 80 g kg<sup>-1</sup> total N, which is the limit for good quality silage according to Finnish recommendations (KTTK 1998). A high level of ammonia N in PBS was partly due to use of ammonium formate containing preservative as there was almost no butyric acid, which is an indicator of clostridial activity (McDonald et al. 1991). Ammonium formate is formed through the neutralization of part of the formic acid, which makes the additive less corrosive. When taking into account the additive originated ammonia N the proportion of ammonia N was 66 g kg<sup>-1</sup> total N in PBS. Proteolysis was minimal in GS.

Increased fermentation of PBS was also evidenced by the 77% lower WSC content of PBS compared to raw material. The lower starch content of PBS compared to that of raw material was probably mainly a result of a combination of losses of pods and ears during mowing and baling and to some degree of degradation of starch during ensiling (Rooke and Hatfield 2003). The D-values of the silages were similar and slightly low. In Finland, a minimum value of 690 g digestible organic matter per kg DM is recommended for high quality grass silage. However, D-value of both silages was based on OMD determination using cellulase method (Friedel 1990). No information of suitability of this method for predicting digestibility of pea-cereal silage is available.

Overall, the considerably different DM content of the silages affected the extent of fermentation during ensiling. This, in turn, probably affected si-

lage intake complicating the interpretation of the results. Accordingly, the results obtained in the present study represent replacement of wilted, restrictively fermented grass silage with more extensively fermented pea-barley silage.

## Diet digestibility and feed intake

Apparent digestibility of diet OM and CP was unaffected by replacing grass silage with pea-barley silage. This is in contrast to Adesogan et al. (2004) who reported significantly greater *in vivo* OM and CP digestibilities for pea-wheat (50:50 and 80:20) silages compared to first-cut grass silage. The CP contents of the silages were 166, 177 and 186 g kg<sup>-1</sup> DM and NDF content 520, 520 and 534 g kg<sup>-1</sup> DM, respectively. Using sheep, Adesogan et al. (2002) also measured higher CP digestibility values for pea-wheat (75:25) silage conserved at full pod stage compared to second-cut grass silage (D-value 584 g kg<sup>-1</sup> DM), but found no difference in OM digestibility between the two forages.

However, diet NDF digestibility in the present study decreased when the proportion of PBS in the feeding increased. The INDF content of PBS was also higher compared to that of GS in accordance with the lower *in sacco* NDF degradability (40.8 and 33.7% for GS and PBS, respectively, unpublished results). In addition, the higher NDF intake from concentrates for PBS100 cows (52.4% of diet NDF) compared to PBS0 cows (39% of diet NDF) partly accounted for the lower diet NDF digestibility for PBS100, since most of the concentrate NDF originated from barley and rapeseed whose fibre is poorly digested compared to silage fibre (MTT 2004). Similarly, Adesogan et al. (2002) reported lower NDF digestibility for pea-wheat silage compared to grass silage. Adesogan et al. (2004) on the contrary, found no significant difference in the *in vivo* NDF digestibility between pea-wheat silage and grass silage.

Differences in digestibility of intercrop silages reflect differences in pea-to-cereal ratio (Salawu et al. 2002b), in maturity of the sward at harvest (Salawu et al. 2002b, Mustafa and Seguin 2004) and between pea varieties (Lunnan 1989, Mustafa

et al. 2002, Adesogan et al. 2004) relating partly to changes in leaf-to-stem ratio (Mustafa and Seguin 2004). Digestibility of DM (Mustafa and Seguin 2004) and OM (Adesogan et al. 2002) of pea-cereal silage was suggested to be more dependent on the pea-to-cereal ratio than on the maturity of the sward at harvest, contrary to the digestibility of NDF (Adesogan et al. 2002, Mustafa and Seguin 2004). In their experiment, Mustafa and Seguin (2004) observed by 11.4% reduced *in vitro* NDF digestibility of pea-barley silage when harvesting was delayed from the flowering stage of pea to the pod fill stage.

Intake of pure pea-barley silage was on an average 2.1 kg DM per day lower than the intake of pure grass silage. This is in contrast with previous studies where the intake of pea-wheat silage has been higher than that of grass silage both for cows (Salawu et al. 2002a, Adesogan et al. 2004) and sheep (Adesogan et al. 2002). However, in the present study cows fed PBS33 had higher silage DM intake than cows fed pure grass silage. Similarly, greater intakes of mixtures of perennial legumes and grass silage (Tuori et al. 2002, Dewhurst et al. 2003a, Kuoppala et al. 2005) and of wholecrop cereals and grass silage (Sutton et al. 1997, Jaakkola et al. 2003) than that of pure grass silage have been reported previously.

Low intake of pure PBS was probably mainly attributed to its fermentation characteristics as high lactic acid and ammonia N concentrations are known to reduce silage intake (Huhtanen et al. 2002). Low intake of PBS100 was well described by silage DM intake index which is calculated on the basis of total fermentation acids, ammonia N content and D-value of the silage (Huhtanen et al. 2002). Low DM content of pea-barley silage raw material led to extensive fermentation with high level of lactic acid which is in accordance with information given by McDonald et al. (1991). Increasing the DM content of silage raw material by wilting (McDonald et al. 1991) or by reducing pea-to-cereal ratio (Lunnan 1989) appears to be beneficial to ensiling quality. Lower pea-to-cereal ratio could also diminish the impairing effect of high buffering capacity of pea on the ensiling quality. This suggests that considering the ensiling

characteristics of pea the ratio of pea-to-barley was too high in the present study. From the point of view of the nutrition, silages from pea-cereal mixtures generally have lower nutritive value compared to pea monocultures (Mustafa and Seguin 2004). Salawu et al. (2002b) suggested that if the proportion of peas in the sward is less than 200 g kg<sup>-1</sup> DM digestibility of pea-wheat intercrop silage is not more than moderate. According to Adesogan et al. (2002) increasing the proportion of peas above 400 g kg<sup>-1</sup> DM only marginally increases the overall forage quality.

Intake of PBS100 was probably also influenced by the low DM content of the silage. According to Steen et al. (1998) maximum grass silage intake was achieved at a DM concentration of 320 g kg<sup>-1</sup>. However, Rook and Gill (1990) found an increase in grass silage intake only up to a DM concentration of 250 g kg<sup>-1</sup>. Contribution of rumen fill to reduction in silage intake with increasing INDF intake as observed by Stensig and Robinson (1997) is unclear, since in the present study the intake of INDF was equal for PBS33 and PBS100.

### Rumen fermentation

The ammonia N content of rumen fluid increased with increasing proportions of PBS in the diet. This is in accordance with Charmley (2001) who reported increasing ruminal ammonia concentration with increasing amount and solubility of silage CP. In response to feeding PBS proportion of acetic acid in rumen fluid decreased and that of propionic acid increased in contrast to the results of Adesogan et al. (2004). Differences in rumen acetic acid and propionic acid contents between the experiments are likely related to differences in fermentation characteristics of the silages or in proportion of concentrate in the diet. In the present study the concentrate content of the diet [560 (PBS0), 550 (PBS33), 570 (PBS67) and 630 (PBS100) g kg<sup>-1</sup> DM] differed significantly between the treatments and may have had some effect (McDonald et al. 2002). However, ensiling quality probably had a more marked effect. Restrictively-fermented silages containing relatively

high concentrations of WSC and low concentrations of lactic acid are characterised by rumen fermentation pattern rich in lipogenic VFAs (acetic acid and butyric acid), whereas rumen fermentation pattern in cows fed silages with high lactic acid concentration is characterised by increased proportion of propionic acid (Huhtanen et al. 2003b).

Feeding PBS also increased the proportion of BCVFAs in rumen fluid. The BCVFAs are produced in the rumen by deamination and decarboxylation of the branched-chain amino acids (valine, leucine and isoleucine) and are required by many cellulolytic bacteria as essential growth factors (Gorosito et al. 1985). As there is no distinct difference in the branched-chain amino acid content between pea and barley seeds and grass (MTT 2004), the increase in proportion of BCVFAs in rumen fluid probably related to the higher amount of CP in PBS compared to that of GS. Dewhurst et al. (2003b) also found that concentration of BCVFAs in the rumen fluid increased when grass silage was replaced with forage legumes containing silages. Adesogan et al. (2004) observed no significant difference in molar percentages of isobutyric acid and isovaleric acid between pea-wheat silage and grass silage, but the proportion of BCVFAs in rumen fluid was numerically greater for pea-wheat intercrop diets.

### Milk yield, milk composition and feed utilisation

Replacing GS with PBS increased milk yield despite the decreased silage intake. However, treatment had no significant effect on the ECM yield. Cows fed PBS0 increased body weight more than cows fed PBS100 suggesting that there were differences in energy partition. Although in the present study the live weight change probably related more to differences in silage intake between the treatments.

Milk fat and lactose concentrations remained unchanged in the present study being in agreement with study carried out with pea-wheat silage (Ade-

sogan et al. 2004). In contrast to Adesogan et al. (2004) feeding PBS decreased milk protein concentration compared to grass silage. Salawu et al. (2002a) found that pea-wheat intercrop silage resulted in lower milk fat concentration than moderate quality second-cut grass silage but milk protein concentration was unaffected. Differences in milk fat and protein content between the experiments are partly related to differences in the fermentation quality of the silages. Increased fermentation of silage significantly decreases milk fat content through the effects on silage DMI and on the ratio of lipogenic to glucogenic VFA in the rumen. Milk protein content and yield decrease with increasing fermentation or proteolysis in the silo relating to reduced silage intake and microbial protein synthesis in the rumen (Huhtanen et al. 2003b). Furthermore, milk protein content is suggested to have a negative relationship with rumen pH (Seymour et al. 2005).

The increase of conjugated linoleic acid (*cis-9,trans-11CLA*) concentration in response to feeding PBS was statistically significant but numerically small. Adesogan et al. (2004) found no difference in milk  $C_{18:2}$  and *cis-9,trans-11CLA* concentrations between pea-wheat and grass silage. Salawu et al. (2002a) reported that feeding pea-wheat intercrop silages led to similar concentrations of CLA and higher concentrations of  $C_{18:2}$  compared to grass silage. Also perennial legumes have been reported to increase the levels of polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFA) in milk (Dewhurst et al. 2003a). Dewhurst et al. (2003b) suggested that increased rumen passage rates with legumes may have reduced rumen biohydrogenation of PUFA to some extent. Furthermore, in their experiment Boufaïed et al. (2003) showed that perennial legumes had higher concentrations of  $C_{18:2}$  compared to perennial grasses.

Feeding PBS increased milk urea concentration. The most important nutritional factor influencing milk urea N is dietary CP content (Nousiainen et al. 2004). In the present study the CP content of the diets were 166 (PBS0), 171 (PBS33), 178 (PBS67) and 185 (PBS100) g kg<sup>-1</sup> DM. Milk urea concentration exceeded 0.16 g per l in all treatments indicating that there was no deficiency

in rumen degradable protein (Nousiainen et al. 2004). However, milk urea concentration remained clearly below 0.30–0.35 g per l in all treatments. This is suggested to be an upper limit attributed to poor N utilisation by rumen microbes (Huhtanen and Shingfield 2005). The efficiency of conversion feed N into milk N was higher for PBS0 and PBS100 and similar for PBS33 and PBS67 compared to the average efficiency of N utilisation (0.282) in grass silage based diets calculated by Huhtanen et al. (2003a). Furthermore, the efficiency of N utilisation for milk production in this experiment was notably higher in all treatments than Salawu et al. (2002a) reported for pea-wheat intercrop or grass silages. Differences in N utilisation between the experiments can be attributed to differences in the maturity of pea at harvest (Adesogan et al. 2002, Salawu et al. 2002a, b) as well as CP concentration of grass silage, and thus to differences in CP content of the silages.

## Conclusions

Differences in the DM content and fermentation quality between the silages complicate the interpretation of the results of the present study. Accordingly, it can be concluded that pea-barley intercrop silage can replace up to two thirds of wilted, moderate quality grass silage in the feeding of dairy cows without decreasing silage intake. Further research on the potential of pea-cereal intercrop silage compared to high quality grass silage in the feeding of the high yielding dairy cows is needed. Also the need of protein supplementation on pea-cereal intercrop silage based diets requires further attention.

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## SELOSTUS

## Herne-ohrakasvustosta säilörehua lypsylehmille nurmisäilörehun sijaan

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Tässä tutkimuksessa selvitettiin herneen ja ohran seoskasvustosta tehdyn säilörehun vaikutusta lypsylehmien rehun syöntiin, rehun sulavuuteen ja maitotuotokseen. Tutkimuksessa oli mukana kahdeksan ayrshirelehmää, jotka jaettiin koejärjestelyssä kahteen  $4 \times 4$  latinalaiseen neliöön. Herneen ja ohran seoskasvustosta tehdyllä säilörehulla korvattiin 0, 33, 67 tai 100 % säilörehun kuiva-aineesta nurmisäilörehun osuuden vastaavasti vähentyessä. Herne-ohrasäilörehu paalattiin, kun palkojen osuus herneen kuiva-aineesta oli puolet ja ohra oli taikinavaiheen alussa. Herneen osuus seoksen kuiva-aineesta oli 74 %. Nurmisäilörehu oli esikuivattua ensisadon timotei-nurminatarehua. Molemmat rehut tehtiin pyöröpaa-leihin AIV2000-liuosta (5 l/tn rehua) käyttäen.

Herne-ohrasäilörehussa oli kuiva-ainetta keskimäärin 255 ja nurmisäilörehussa 559 g kilossa. Rehujen pH oli vastaavasti 3,96 ja 5,16. Herne-ohrasäilörehu sisälsi raakavalkuaista keskimäärin 170 ja neutraalidetergentti-kuitua 419 g kilossa kuiva-ainetta ja nurmisäilörehu vastaavasti 131 ja 557 g kilossa kuiva-ainetta. Herne-ohrasäilörehu oli pidemmälle käynyttä kuin nurmisäilörehu (käymishappojen kokonaismäärä 120 vs. 12 g kilossa

kuiva-ainetta). Rehuissa oli erittäin vähän voihappoa. Lehmät saivat säilörehua vapaasti. Väkirehuna oli viljarypsipohjainen perustäysrehu, jota annettiin 12 kg tai 14,5 kg päivässä.

Säilörehun syönti oli eri ruokinnoilla 9,2 (0 %), 9,7 (33 %), 9,0 (67 %) ja 7,1 (100 %) kiloa kuiva-ainetta päivässä. Ruokinta ei vaikuttanut dieetin orgaanisen aineen eikä raakavalkuaisen sulavuuteen. Neutraalidetergenttikuidun sulavuus heikkeni herne-ohrasäilörehun osuuden kasvaessa. Maitotuotos eri ruokinnoilla oli 28,7 (0 %), 28,5 (33 %), 29,5 (67 %) ja 30,3 (100 %) kiloa päivässä. Energiakorjatussa maitotuotoksessa ei ollut merkitsevää eroa eri ruokintojen välillä. Maidon valkuaispitoisuus kuitenkin pieneni herne-ohrasäilörehun osuuden lisääntyessä. Säilörehujen erilainen kuiva-ainepitoisuus ja käymislaatu vaikeuttavat kokeen tulosten tulkintaa. Kuitenkin tämän tutkimuksen mukaan herneen ja ohran seoskasvustosta tehty säilörehu voi korvata kaksi kolmasosaa esikuivatun, sulavuudeltaan keskimääräisen nurmisäilörehun kuiva-aineesta lypsylehmien ruokinnassa vähentämättä säilörehun syöntiä.