

Maize Gas Focus



Symonds Farm Power is part of the Geo. E. Gittus & Sons Ltd, Bury St Edmunds farming business and has recently invested in a 1.4 megawatt anaerobic digestion plant. Geo. E. Gittus & Sons Ltd is one of several farms supplying 24,000 tons of maize per year to the digestion plant where methane gas is utilized to generate electricity. Of the electricity produced, 20-25% is currently used in the farm's pig production and finishing business on-site, with the rest being supplied to the national grid.

21,000 tons of digestate is returned to the land in a rotational system, providing valuable organic fertilizer.

With so much maize silage to compact, a Kelvin Cave SilaFactor is being evaluated to increase compaction in the maize silage clamp. Farm Manager and Company Director, Mark Wells says, "The maize operation is all about methane gas. The better the compaction, the better the

quality of silage we produce and the more methane gas we get out. Walking behind the SilaFactor on the silage clamp the firmness is there to be seen producing a much better, denser crop, with minimal air presence."

Adam Smith, who helps oversee maize production, adds that they are now getting a greater area compacted safely, with the loader shovel drivers appreciating

how well the SilaFactor compacts the maize around the shoulders of the clamp, making their job much safer and easier.

He adds that it will be an interesting comparison of the silage when we start to feed the re-clamped silage as it was placed upon existing maize that was clamped in the autumn without using a SilaFactor.

