

## **EFFECTS OF ADDITION MICROBIAL INOCULANTS OR FORMIC ACID TO WHOLE CORN PLANT AT ENSILING ON SILAGE QUALITY, NUTRITIVE VALUE AND RUMEN FERMENTATION IN SHEEP AND MILK YIELD AND COMPOSITION OF LACTATION COWS.**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Whole corn plants at stage of maturity were treated by adding microbial inoculants or formic acid at ensiling to determine the effect of these additives (lactic acid bacterial inoculants (LAB) or formic acid) on the fermentation during ensiling. Nutrients digestion coefficients, nitrogen balance, rumen function and DM, CF degradability of sheep fed rations containing untreated or treated silage. Feed intake, milk production and milk composition of crossbred Friesian cows fed treated or untreated silage plus 6kg CFM were also studied. The results of silage quality indicated that formic acid silage had lower ( $P<0.05$ ) value of pH, ammonia nitrogen, total VFA and lactic acid than inoculated silage and untreated silage. The results of the chemical and physical characteristics indicated a good quality for the untreated or treated silages. Nine Barki meal sheep used in digestibility experiment were assigned into 3 similar groups of 3 each. Animals were fed one of experimental rations R1, R2 or control, which containing inoculated silage, formic acid treated silage or un-treated silage respectively. The results showed insignificant differences ( $P<0.05$ ) in digestibility of DM and OM among experimental rations. Highest ( $P<0.05$ ) CP digestibility and NB observed with ration containing formic acid silage. Moreover all animals fed experimental rations showed positive NB. While, highest ( $P<0.05$ ) CF digestibility was recorded for the ration containing inoculated silage. However, nutritive value were significantly ( $P<0.05$ ) higher with R1 and R2 than control. Rumen fermentation and in-situ trials determined using three cannulated female Barki sheep. The main results showed that  $\text{NH}_3\text{-N}$  concentration was higher for sheep given the control ration following R1. While, highest ( $P<0.05$ ) TVFA'S was recorded for sheep fed R1 and R2 compared to those fed control ration. On the other hand, microbial protein synthesis was lowest ( $P<0.05$ ) for sheep fed R1 and R2 than those fed ration containing un-treated silage which recorded highest value. Dry matter and CF degradability showed significant ( $P<0.05$ ) increased for rations containing inoculants silage than control ration. Ration containing formic acid silage showed intermediate value. Feed intake, milk yield and milk composition were significantly increased for cows fed inoculants silage and formic acid silage. Also, these silage additives showed improved in Net revenue and Economic Efficiency%. These results introduce a novel technique towards making best use of agricultural residues as a compensatory feed for feeding ruminants and minimize such problems of disposal pollution.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Corn silage is a high-quality forage crop that is used in many dairy farms. Whole-plant corn is an ideal silage crop with adequate water-soluble carbohydrates for satisfactory fermentation to lactic acid McDonald *et al.*, (1991). Recently corn silage had increased rapidly as green forage for ruminants. This increase is related to its relatively high energy content and as

highly palatable quality forage Mohamed *et al.*, (2003). About 4 and 0.6 million tons of corn stover and corn cobs are produced as co-products in Egypt annually (Central Administration of Agricultural Extension 2010). This agricultural residue could be used to overcome partially the gap in problem of inadequate quantity of ruminant feeds. Various methods applied to increase the nutritional quality of agricultural by-products and silage one of these methods. Fermentation will occur until enough lactic acid is produced to drop the pH to approximately 4.2, at which point all bacterial action stops. This usually occurs within three weeks after a silo is filled and it can be stored for long periods of time without losing quality. Bill Seglar (2003). Silage additives have been developed by Adesogan and Salawu, (2004); Adesogan *et al.*, (2007). to improve the ensiling process, additives are advantageous because they are safe and easy to use, do not pollute the environment and are regarded as natural products. Bacterial inoculants are added to silage in order to stimulate lactic acid fermentation, accelerating the decrease in pH, and thus improving silage preservation. Most available inoculants selected strains of homofermentative LAB, such as *Lactobacillus plantarum*, *Pediococcus*, and *Enterococcus* species, Weinberg *et al.*, (1995). Addition of formic acid to silage material has been reported to have positive effects on fermentation Snyman and Joubert, (1996). Formic acid is commonly used as a preservative for direct-cut silage, when exposed to air Driehuis *et al* (2001). Formic acid has anti-bacterial effect on many bacterial species, is particularly effective at inhibiting the activity of undesirable bacteria, such as Clostridia and Enterobacteria; thereby, it may permit lactic acid bacteria to dominate the fermentation including LAB (O'Kiely, 1993; Randby, 1999). But a greater amount of water soluble carbohydrates (WSC) content of silage which is a better source of energy for rumen microorganisms than lactic acid Bosch *et al.*, (1991). The aim of this study was to determine the effects of formic acid and bacterial inoculants on whole plant corn silage quality, digestion coefficient, nitrogen balance, ruminal fermentation characteristics in sheep and milk production of dairy cows. The impact of the silage additives on economic efficiency was also measured.

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

The silage was made from fresh whole corn plant (WCS) which was collected from Noubaria region at the end of July 2013. The corn plants were chopped to a length 1 – 3 cm, with approximately 32% DM. (The same volume of water which was used to dissolve the silage additives was added to the control treatment to maintain equal moisture). Three treatments were used in this experiments, the control (untreated WCS), the second treatment was WCS + Bacterial inoculants (Pioneer brand 1174, *Lactobacillus plantarum*) added at the rate of  $2 \times 10^{10}$  colony forming units (cfu)/g of fresh forage and the third was WCS + formic acid (Xilong Chemical company) added at the rate of 4 liter / ton fresh forage. The proximate chemical analysis of fresh whole corn plant (WCS) before ensiling and the concentrate feed mixture (CFM) used in this experiment are presented in Table (1).

**Table (1): Chemical analysis for fresh whole corn plant (WCS) and concentrate feed mixture (CFM):**

Item	DM	(On DM basis)										
		OM	CP	CF	EE	NEF	Ash	NDF	ADF	ADL	Hemicellulose	cellulose
WCP fresh	31.59	94.32	9.13	27.13	2.66	55.4	5.68	50.98	30.14	5.01	20.84	25.13
CFM*	92.20	91.23	16.25	10.56	3.55	60.87	8.77	25.42	15.23	2.07	10.19	13.16

\*Composition CFM: 38%Yellow corn, 29%Wheat bran, 15% Soybean meal, 10% Undecorticated cotton seed meal, 5% Molasses, 2.5% Salt Limestone and 0.5%Premix.

Three stacks were covered separately by double-layers linoleum plastic, then covered by a layer of soil approximately 20 cm<sup>2</sup> depth and straw bales to guarantee anaerobic condition. Samples from the three stacks were taken after 60 days to determine silage quality and chemical composition.

This work was conducted at Noubaria Experimental Station, Animal Production Research Institute, Agricultural Research Center, Ministry of Agriculture.

**Silage quality:**

For evaluating silage quality, silage extract was prepared by homogenizing 30 gram fresh material with 270 ml distilled water then blended for 10 minutes in laboratory blender Waldo and Schultz, (1956). The homogenized sample was filtered through a Whatman No. 54 filter paper until it becomes perfectly clear. The pH value was directly determined using Orion 680 digital pH meter. Lactic acid concentration was evaluated by titration with 0.1 N sodium hydroxide solution using 3 drops of phenolphthalein as indicator, the NaOH was added until the colour changes to pink. Each millilitre of NaOH is equivalent to 90.08 mg of lactic acid according to the AOAC (1990). Total volatile fatty acids (VFA'S) concentration was determined according to Warner (1964). Molar proportion of VFA'S (acetic, propionic and butyric) were measured according to Bush *et al.* (1979) using High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) Sample detection was by UV absorbance at 210 nm. Ammonia nitrogen (NH<sub>3</sub>-N) concentration was determinate by direct distillation according to the AOAC (1990). Results concerning the quality of Silage samples are shown in Table 2.

**Digestibility Trials:**

Nine Barki male sheep (average live body weight 41kg±2.5) was used in a completely randomized design digestibility experiment. They were distributed on to three equal groups and used in consecutive trials, three animals / group. The animals were fed 600-g DM / head / day from commercial concentrate feed mixture plus 1500g from treated or untreated WCS calculated to cover their maintenance requirements according to (NRC, 1994). Chemical composition of the experimental rations (600g CFM plus1500 WCS) are presented in table 3. Each digestibility trial lasted three weeks as preliminary period followed by one week as a collection period. The animals were housed in metabolic cages and beneath each, a stainless steel screen having 4 mm mesh to retain feces but allow free passage of urine, which was collected through a funnel containing 5 – 7 ml sulfuric acid preservative to prevent the loss of nitrogen from the urine. The animals were

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fed one of the following experimental rations R1, R2 or control which containing inoculants silage, formic acid silage or untreated silage respectively, twice daily at 8.00 and 17.00. Water was available all time. Feed samples were collected and prepared for proximate analysis. Feces and urine were collected quantitatively once a day before the morning meal at 8.00, and stored at  $-10^{\circ}\text{C}$ . The seven days combined collection was mixed the sampled and kept for routine analysis. Fecal samples were dried at  $60^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 72 hours (partial drying) and ground through a 1 mm screen on a Wiley mill grinder. They were composted (20 gm) per sample per treatment per animal for analysis. Daily urine volume was measured and samples of 10% of the volume was taken in glass bottles and stored in a refrigerator for nitrogen determination. Digestibilities were determined and expressed on dry matter basis. Proximate analyses were carried out according to A.O.A.C. (1995), crude protein (CP) by Kjeldahl, while nitrogen free extract (NFE) was calculated by difference. Fiber fraction (NDF, ADF and ADL) was determined as described by Goering and Van Soest (1970).

### **Rumen Fermentation Trials: -**

Three Barki female sheep fitted with permanent rumen fistula (with an average of  $40\text{ kg} \pm 1.50$  live body weight) were used in rumen fermentation. The animals were fed the same rations used in the digestibility trials. Rumen contents were collected from the fistula at 0, 1, 3 and 6 hours after feeding. Samples were flushed with  $\text{CO}_2$  during the collection time, and incubated at  $39^{\circ}\text{C}$  in thermostatically controlled water-bath. At zero time two sub-samples were poured into another jars containing formalin (1 ml/ 100 g rumen contents) and swirled vigorously to stop metabolic activity. One of these samples was used to estimate concentration of ammonia and volatile fatty acid (VFA); the other one was used to determine the dry matter percentage in the rumen contents El-Shazly and Hungate, (1965). Rumen samples taken at zero and at one hour of fermentation were strained through cheesecloth. The supernatant was used for determination pH immediately using a glass electrode, ammonia nitrogen (mg/ 100 ml R.L.) using (MgO) distillation method of Al-Rabbat *et al.*, (1971). The total VFAs (m.eq/ 100 ml R.L.) were estimated using steam distillation as described by Warner (1964). and molar percentages of major VFA (acetic, propionic and butyric) was carried out using HPLC.

The microbial protein (MP) synthesized in the rumen of sheep fed the experimental rations were calculated as g MP per day using, total bacteria count was carried out according to Russell (1984).

### **In situ trials:**

Two polyester bags (100 % Dacron polyester) with a mean pore size of  $45\ \mu\text{m}$  and the bags (7 X 15 cm) had a surface area of about  $210\text{ cm}^2$  were used at each incubation time. Approximately 3 g of untreated silage, silage with inoculants or silage treated with formic acid were placed in each bag. The bags were incubated in the rumen of each sheep and removed after 2, 4, 6, 8, 12, 24, 48 and 72 hour. After the removal of the bags, they were washed gently under a flowing steam of tap water until the fluid was clear. The bags were drained, dried at  $60^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 72 hours. Dry matter and crude fiber content were determined according to the method of the A.O.A.C. (1995). Two bags

were washed in running water for 15 min. to determine the initial soluble fraction (a). The effective rumen degradability (ED) was calculated according to Orskov and McDonald (1979) equation  $ED = a + bc/c+k$ . where, a, b and c are estimates of soluble fraction, the degradable fraction and the rate of degradation, respectively. Rumen out flow rate (k) was assumed to be 0.06 per hour (McDonald 1981).

**Table (2):Chemical composition and silage quality of treated or untreated WCS silages (on DM basis).**

Item	Untreated silage Control	Treated silage* Bacterial inoculants	Treated silage** Formic acid
DM	29.13	29.97	31.06
OM	93.39	93.27	93.85
CP	8.28	8.62	8.97
CF	26.33	25.71	26.04
EE	2.54	2.65	2.41
NFE	56.24	56.29	56.43
Ash	6.61	6.73	6.15
NDF	48.07	46.45	47.85
ADF	28.55	26.37	28.05
ADL	4.88	4.28	4.53
Hemi cellulose	19.52	20.08	19.80
Cellulose	23.67	22.09	23.52
Silage quality			
pH	3.85±0.04 <sup>a</sup>	3.76±0.03 <sup>a</sup>	3.64±0.03 <sup>b</sup>
NH <sub>3</sub> -N % of Total N	9.04±0.15 <sup>a</sup>	8.31±0.11 <sup>ab</sup>	7.05±0.18 <sup>b</sup>
TVFA'S %	6.26±0.17 <sup>ab</sup>	6.64±0.13 <sup>a</sup>	5.36±0.19 <sup>b</sup>
Lactic acid % DM	4.11±0.06 <sup>b</sup>	4.90±0.04 <sup>a</sup>	3.92±0.03 <sup>c</sup>
Acetic acid % DM	1.5±0.01 <sup>a</sup>	1.4±0.01 <sup>b</sup>	1.3±0.02 <sup>c</sup>
Propionic acid % DM	0.6±0.003 <sup>a</sup>	0.3±0.002 <sup>b</sup>	0.1±0.002 <sup>c</sup>
Butyric acid% DM	0.05	0.04	0.04

<sup>abc</sup> Means within the same rows with different superscript are significantly differ (P<0.05).

\*WCS silage treated with Bacterial inoculants, \*\* WCS silage treated with formic acid

#### Lactation Trials:

Nine lactating crossbred Friesian multiparous cows were chosen based on their milk production in the previous 4 weeks before calves; they had the same days in milk, lactation number and with an average live body weight (450 kg±6.5 in average). used in this experiment studies. Each three cows were offered one of the experimental diets for 45 days of which the first 15 days was considered as preliminary period followed by 30 days collection period. The cows were fed to cover their maintenance requirement and requirement for the production. Maintenance requirement calculated according to (NRC, 1990) and requirement for the production were calculated from preliminary period and also the milk yield previous according to Barney Harris (1992). Cows were fed 6-kg CFM / head/ day plus one of the following

silage with inoculants, formic acid silage or untreated silage *ad-lib* and offered fresh at 9.00 a.m. and 17.00 p.m. the cows were milked twice a day and milk samples (1% of milk yield/ period) were taken during the 30 days at 8.00 and 16.00. Actual milk yields were recorded daily and milk samples were taken and kept at 4 °C for analysis. Fat corrected milk (4 %) was calculated according to Gaines (1923) using the following equation:  $FCM = M (0.4 + 0.15 F\%)$  Where M= milk yield, F = fat percentage. Milk fat percentage was determined according to Gerber's method as described by Ling (1963). Total solids percent (TS), total protein and ash were determined according to the standard methods of A.O.A.C. (1995). Lactose was determined according to a rapid method for the determination of lactose in milk and cheese described by John *et al.* (1957). Solid not fat (SNF) was calculated by the differences. Data were statistically analyzed using the method of least squares analysis of variance using General Linear Models (GLM) procedure (SAS, 2000). Duncan's Multiple Range Test (Duncan, 1955) was used to compare among means of each trait.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The nutrient composition of whole corn silage (WCS) before ensiling is shown in (Table 1). The dry matter (DM) content in whole corn plant before ensiling was 31.59% and decreased after ensiling (Table 2). The reduction of DM between before and after ensilage might be due to the fermentation process reported by Phillips *et al.* (1981). The decreased DM was less with formic acid than control or bacterial inoculants silage. Similar results were reported by Rowghani and Zamiri. (2009) Crude protein (CP) content was affected by silage additives and was higher with silage treated with formic acid than silage inoculants or silage without additive. The higher CP content might be due to the restriction of fermentation, deamination and decarboxylation of proteins during ensilage Rooke *et al.*, (1998). In general the chemical composition and physical characteristics of treated or untreated whole corn silage indicated that all silages were of good quality. These results did not differ than obtained by EL- Shinnawy (2003). Fresh WCS had higher content of NDF and ADF than after ensiling. These decreases in NDF and ADF content may have resulted from increased cell wall digestion due to increased silage fermentation. Also, inoculants silage was more affected on NDF, ADF, ADL and CF contents than the silage without additive and formic acid silage. These results were in-agreement with those obtained Ozkose *et al.*, (2009) who found lowered NDF and ADF content of inoculants-treated silage than before ensiling Baytok *et al.* (2005) found that the crude fiber content, NDF and ADF were lower in all corn silages compared to corn before ensiling. While, in some studies formic acid treatment slightly decreased the ADF concentration in the silage through a rapid decrease of pH Marshall *et al.*, (1993). However, in other studies formic acid treatment had no effect on cell wall degradation Nadeau *et al.*, (2000). Data for Silage quality in terms of pH, organic acids and NH<sub>3</sub>-N concentrations are presented in Table 2. All silages had a pH less than 4.2 indicating successful preservation and fermentation EL-Shinnawy (2003). The

major fermentation product in all silages was lactic acid. Formic acid silage had lower ( $P < 0.05$ ) lactic acid than inoculants silage and silage without additive. These results were in-agreement with Many researchers who have reported that addition of formic acid into silage decreased silage lactic acid content by limiting silage fermentation and reduction in organic acid (Kennedy, 1990); while bacterial inoculants silage had positive effects on lactic acid levels and total volatile fatty acids (VFA's) (Sanderson, 1993). When major bacterial population is lactic acid bacteria (LAB), fermentation products are mainly high levels of lactic acid, and low levels of acetic acid. In general these results indicated that, the lactic acid ranged between 3.92-4.9% DM which is the range of good quality silage (McDonald *et al.* 1995) and EL-Shinnawy (2011). Silage NH<sub>3</sub>-N concentration, which reveals the extent of proteolysis in silage, was significantly ( $P < 0.05$ ) lower with formic acid silage than inoculants silage and silage without additive. Sarah *et al* (1992) reported that formic acid was more consistent than bacterial inoculants in reducing protein degradation and de-amination in clover silage. Davies *et al*, (1998). Found that formic acid treatment reduced proteolysis during ensilage, whereas McDonald *et al.* (1995) reported that the concentration of NH<sub>3</sub>-N as % DM of a good quality silage should be less than 10% as % of total N.

**Table(3):Chemical composition of the experimental rations fed to animals.**

Item	OM	CP	CF	EE	NFE	Ash
Control*	91.88	12.88	17.19	3.09	58.72	8.12
R1**	91.92	13.09	16.95	3.06	58.82	8.08
R2***	91.88	13.22	17.23	3.05	58.38	8.12

Control ration\*:600gCFM + 1500g untreated corn silage.

Ration1\*\*: 600g CFM + 1500g treated corn silage with inoculants.

Ration2\*\*\*: 600g CFM + 1500g treated corn silage with formic acid.

**Table (4): Digestibility coefficients (%), nutritive values (%) and nitrogen utilization of experimental rations fed to sheep (Mean ± SE).**

Item	Control	R1	R2
<b>Digestibility coefficients</b>			
DM	67.80±0.88 <sup>ab</sup>	68.73±0.72 <sup>a</sup>	67.56±0.86 <sup>ab</sup>
OM	70.60±0.74 <sup>ab</sup>	71.73±0.79 <sup>a</sup>	71.02±0.88 <sup>a</sup>
CP	64.45±0.47 <sup>c</sup>	65.54±0.41 <sup>b</sup>	66.97±0.51 <sup>a</sup>
CF	60.69±0.66 <sup>b</sup>	63.14±0.95 <sup>a</sup>	60.95±0.84 <sup>b</sup>
EE	78.55±0.43	78.17±0.82	78.21±0.42
NFE	73.14±0.61 <sup>b</sup>	74.65±0.48 <sup>ab</sup>	75.25±0.29 <sup>a</sup>
<b>Nutritive value</b>			
TDN	67.14±0.59 <sup>b</sup>	68.57±0.62 <sup>a</sup>	68.65±0.65 <sup>a</sup>
DCP	8.30±0.19 <sup>ab</sup>	8.58±0.14 <sup>a</sup>	8.85±0.17 <sup>a</sup>
<b>Nitrogen utilization</b>			
NI	21.36±0.47 <sup>b</sup>	21.98±0.42 <sup>ab</sup>	22.60±0.39 <sup>a</sup>
ND	14.14±0.16 <sup>b</sup>	15.07±0.17 <sup>a</sup>	15.35±0.12 <sup>a</sup>
Urinary N	7.70±0.26 <sup>ab</sup>	8.24±0.21 <sup>a</sup>	8.29±0.29 <sup>a</sup>
NB	6.44±0.19 <sup>bc</sup>	6.83±0.17 <sup>b</sup>	7.06±0.13 <sup>a</sup>
NB/NI	30.15±0.22 <sup>b</sup>	31.10±0.17 <sup>a</sup>	31.24±0.29 <sup>a</sup>
NB/ND	45.54±0.18 <sup>ab</sup>	45.32±0.29 <sup>b</sup>	46.00±0.11 <sup>a</sup>

<sup>abc</sup> Means within the same rows with different superscript are significantly differ ( $P < 0.05$ ).

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The digestibility trails, nutritive values and nitrogen utilization are presented in table (4). The results indicated that animals fed R1 containing inoculants silage showed highest digestibility values of DM, OM, and EE than control and R2 without significant difference. The digestibility of crude protein was significantly higher ( $P < 0.05$ ) with ration containing formic acid silage than control and R2. The observation that formic acid-based additives resulted in higher CP digestibility was in-agreement with those reported by Adesogan and salawu (2002), Hetta *et al* (2003). The effect of formic acid on CP digestibility could be due to reduced nitrogen losses through fermentation during ensilage. The digestibility of crude fiber was significantly higher with R1 containing inoculants silage compared to other rations. Knight *et al.* (2007) concluded that the degree of improvement in digestibility of crude fiber may have been due to increased silage fermentation caused by inoculants additives to silage. Bacterial inoculants also have been reported to affect fiber concentration and digestibility of silage fiber Harrison *et al.*, (1989)

The nutritive value of the experimental rations expressed as (TDN %) and (DCP %) are presented in table 4. The results indicated that, total digestible nutrient (%TDN) were higher ( $P < 0.05$ ) for rations containing formic acid silage and inoculants silage than control ration. No significant differences ( $P < 0.05$ ) among rations for digestible crude protein (DCP %), were recorded.

Nitrogen intakes, nitrogen balance for sheep fed the experimental rations are presented in table (4). The results showed that nitrogen intakes for sheep given experimental rations ranged from 21.36 to 22.60 g/h/ day. Also, these results indicated that all animals were in positive nitrogen balance (NB). Ration2 recorded significantly ( $P < 0.05$ ) higher NB value compared to control and R1. Increased N retention has been reported in sheep and dairy heifers fed silage treated with formic acid Sarah *et al* (1992). This increase in N retention appeared to be related to an improved N digestion as opposed to a reduction in urinary N excretion as reported by (McAllister *et al.*, (1998). In the present study the differences in N digestion among experimental rations could be explained on the basis of ammonia levels in the silage Nkosi *et al.*, (2010). According to McDonald *et al.* (1991), formic acid has been shown to reduce proteolysis in silage and increased protein digestion.

**Table (5): Overall mean with their  $\pm$ SE of rumen parameters of sheep fed the experimental Rations.**

Items	Experimental rations		
	Control	R1	R2
pH	6.68 $\pm$ 0.21	6.61 $\pm$ 0.20	6.59 $\pm$ 0.15
NH <sub>3</sub> -N concentration (mg/100mlR.L)	9.74 $\pm$ 0.32 <sup>ab</sup>	9.52 $\pm$ 0.28 <sup>ab</sup>	10.12 $\pm$ 0.26 <sup>a</sup>
TVFA concentration (meq/100 mlR.L)	10.25 $\pm$ 0.63 <sup>b</sup>	11.37 $\pm$ 0.67 <sup>a</sup>	11.44 $\pm$ 0.71 <sup>a</sup>
Acetic acid, %	60.68 $\pm$ 0.31 <sup>a</sup>	57.37 $\pm$ 0.29 <sup>b</sup>	58.49 $\pm$ 0.36 <sup>b</sup>
propionic acid, %	18.33 $\pm$ 0.19 <sup>b</sup>	20.62 $\pm$ 0.11 <sup>a</sup>	19.97 $\pm$ 0.18 <sup>ab</sup>
Butyric acid, %	13.80 $\pm$ 0.23	13.70 $\pm$ 0.25	13.30 $\pm$ 0.17
Acetic /propionic ratio	3.31 $\pm$ 0.05 <sup>a</sup>	2.78 $\pm$ 0.04 <sup>b</sup>	2.92 $\pm$ 0.05 <sup>ab</sup>
Microbial protein synthesis	47.01 $\pm$ 0.85 <sup>a</sup>	45.85 $\pm$ 0.61 <sup>b</sup>	46.36 $\pm$ 0.64 <sup>b</sup>

<sup>ab</sup> means in the same row with different superscripts are significantly differ ( $P < 0.05$ ).

Rumen fluid fermentation parameters are showed in table (5). The results showed no-significant differences among R1, R2 and control ration in the value of rumen pH, the rumen pH was not affected by the experimental rations, probably due to the buffering capacity of saliva reported by Jonas and Vilma (2006). The higher values for rumen ammonia-N concentration (mg/ 100 ml R.L.) recorded with sheep fed formic acid silage were not statistically significant with those fed the control ration. These results were in agreement with those of Cao *et al* (2011) who reported that lactic acid bacteria (LAB) inoculants improve the proteolysis of silage. Free amino acids and other products of protein hydrolysis are degraded very rapidly in the rumen which might increase concentration of ruminal ammonia-N at the first hour. The values of rumen total volatile fatty acids (VFA's) concentrations (m.eq/ 100 ml R.L.) of sheep fed the experimental rations are presented in Table (5). Rations containing either formic acid silage or inoculants silage showed an increase in TVFA's concentrations without significant differences. But, Lower ( $P < 0.05$ ) TVFA's concentrations obtained for control ration. These results were in-agreement with Jonas and Vilma (2006) who reported that sheep fed inoculated or chemically treated silages tended to have a higher ( $P < 0.05$ ) TVFA's compared with those fed untreated silage. Similar results obtained with by ziw (2003) who suggest that increased TVFA's occurred due to improvement of DM or OM digestibility. Percentage of acetic acid was higher ( $P < 0.05$ ) in the rumen fluid of sheep fed control ration compared with the rumen fluid of sheep fed inoculants silage or formic acid silage. However, a percentage of propionic acid was greater in rumen fluid of sheep fed R1 than R2. While, percentage of propionic acid in rumen fluid of sheep fed control ration recorded lowest values ( $P < 0.05$ ) compared with those fed R1. Probably lactic acid of silage was transformed into propionate in rumen. Dawson and Mayne (1997). The present study showed that the inoculants silage recorded highest value of lactic acid and also showed similar results with formic acid silage.

**Table (6): Degradation kinetics of DM and CF for sheep fed the experimental rations (mean  $\pm$  SE).**

Items	Untreated Control silage	Inoculants Treated silage	Formic acid Treated silage
DM			
a %	24.05 $\pm$ 0.42 <sup>c</sup>	27.37 $\pm$ 0.54 <sup>a</sup>	25.94 $\pm$ 0.63 <sup>b</sup>
b %	53.01 $\pm$ 0.73 <sup>a</sup>	51.41 $\pm$ 0.72 <sup>b</sup>	50.34 $\pm$ 0.76 <sup>c</sup>
c %	0.063 $\pm$ 0.003 <sup>c</sup>	0.064 $\pm$ 0.001 <sup>b</sup>	0.066 $\pm$ 0.002 <sup>a</sup>
EDDM, %	51.20 $\pm$ 0.89 <sup>b</sup>	53.91 $\pm$ 0.53 <sup>a</sup>	52.31 $\pm$ 0.83 <sup>ab</sup>
CF			
a %	21.56 $\pm$ 0.32 <sup>c</sup>	24.59 $\pm$ 0.22 <sup>a</sup>	22.70 $\pm$ 0.24 <sup>b</sup>
b %	52.77 $\pm$ 0.21 <sup>c</sup>	57.18 $\pm$ 0.25 <sup>a</sup>	55.08 $\pm$ 0.27 <sup>ab</sup>
c %	0.075 $\pm$ 0.001 <sup>b</sup>	0.072 $\pm$ 0.001 <sup>c</sup>	0.078 $\pm$ 0.002 <sup>a</sup>
EDCF, %	50.87 $\pm$ 0.37 <sup>c</sup>	55.78 $\pm$ 0.21 <sup>a</sup>	53.83 $\pm$ 0.13 <sup>b</sup>

<sup>abc</sup> Means within column with different superscript are significantly differ ( $P < 0.05$ ).

a = soluble fraction (%).

b = potentially degradable fraction (%).

c = rate of degradability (% h<sup>-1</sup>).

ED = effective degradability (%)

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Microbial protein syntheses in the rumen of sheep fed the experimental rations are presented in table (5). The result showed that microbial protein synthesis was higher ( $P < 0.05$ ) for sheep fed control ration. On the other hand there were no significant differences in microbial protein synthesis between R1 and R2 containing inoculants silage and formic acid silage respectively. These results are in-agreement with results obtained by (Hoover and Stokes, 1991).

The effect of additives bacterial inoculants or formic acid on the degradation fractions and effective degradability (ED) of DM for experimental rations are shown in Table (6). Ration containing inoculants silage showed the highest rapid degradable fraction (a) followed by ration containing formic acid silage. Ration containing silage without additive had the lowest value ( $P < 0.05$ ). However ration containing silage without additive recorded the highest potential degradable fraction (b) followed by ration containing inoculants silage. Ration containing formic acid silage had lowest value ( $P < 0.05$ ). Similar trend has been recorded with degradation fractions of CF these results were in agreement with those of Nowak *et al* (2004) who suggested that extensive silage fermentation may increase fraction (a) and reduce fractions (b). On the other hand ration containing inoculants silage recorded highest value ED of DM and CF followed by ration containing formic acid silage, while ration containing un-treated recorded lowest value ( $P < 0.05$ ). These results are in agreement with those obtained by Filya *et al* (2002) who found that LAB mixture inoculant "A" {*S. faecium*, *L. plantarum*, *P. acidilactici*} reduced cell-wall contents and improved *in situ* rumen dry matter, organic matter, NDF and ADF degradability of the forage silages. Filya (2003) studied the effect of *L. buchneri*, alone, *L. plantarum*, alone or in combination with *L. buchneri* + *L. plantarum* on the ruminal degradability of corn and sorghum silages. Their results indicated increased of *in situ* rumen dry matter, organic matter and neutral detergent fiber degradability corn and sorghum silages. Yahaya *et al.* (2004) found that a lactic acid bacteria treatment increased degradability of dry matter and NDF significantly and Nowak *et al.* (2004) found that formic acid slightly but not significant increased in ruminal DM degradability of grass silage compared with inoculants.

**Table (7): Milk yields and milk composition of lactating cows fed the experimental rations (mean  $\pm$  SE).**

Item	Experimental rations		
	Control ration	R1	R2
Milk yields kg/d	13.36 $\pm$ 0.70 <sup>b</sup>	14.87 $\pm$ 0.85 <sup>a</sup>	14.62 $\pm$ 0.76 <sup>a</sup>
4 % FCM	12.65 $\pm$ 0.82 <sup>b</sup>	14.40 $\pm$ 0.74 <sup>a</sup>	14.05 $\pm$ 0.71 <sup>a</sup>
Fat, kg/d	0.49 $\pm$ 0.02 <sup>bc</sup>	0.56 $\pm$ 0.01 <sup>a</sup>	0.54 $\pm$ 0.02 <sup>b</sup>
Milk composition (%):			
Total solids	12.67 $\pm$ 0.32 <sup>ab</sup>	12.95 $\pm$ 0.33 <sup>a</sup>	13.00 $\pm$ 0.58 <sup>a</sup>
Solids not fat	9.02 $\pm$ 0.27 <sup>c</sup>	9.16 $\pm$ 0.41 <sup>b</sup>	9.26 $\pm$ 0.49 <sup>a</sup>
Fat	3.65 $\pm$ 0.18 <sup>b</sup>	3.79 $\pm$ 0.16 <sup>a</sup>	3.74 $\pm$ 0.13 <sup>a</sup>
Protein	3.42 $\pm$ 0.25 <sup>b</sup>	3.54 $\pm$ 0.34 <sup>a</sup>	3.58 $\pm$ 0.28 <sup>a</sup>
Lactose	4.68 $\pm$ 0.15	4.71 $\pm$ 0.18	4.75 $\pm$ 0.13
Ash	0.92 $\pm$ 0.01	0.91 $\pm$ 0.02	0.93 $\pm$ 0.01

abc Means within rows with different superscript are significantly differ ( $P < 0.05$ ).

Data for the daily milk and FCM (4%) production are presented in table (7): In general, cows fed on rations containing either corn silage treated with inoculants or treated with formic acid had the highest ( $P < 0.05$ ) daily milk yield and 4% FCM yield, while, cows fed the control ration recorded the lowest milk yield and 4% FCM yield. These results were in-agreement with those of Mayne and Steen (1993) who found that the use inoculants or formic acid as additive silage increase ( $P < 0.05$ ) milk yield, FCM yield and milk protein than the untreated silage. Glenn *et al.* (1986) reported a trend for higher milk yields when cows were fed alfalfa silage treated with formic acid. He also, found that milk production from direct-cut formic acid silage was greater than that obtained from untreated direct-cut silage. Indeed, several studies have reported improved milk yield by lactating dairy cows feeding silage treated with inoculants (Zwi 2003 Selmar-Olsen and Mo, 1997 and Kennedy 1990). On the other hand Peymanfar and Kermanshahi (2012) stated that increasing of feed intake; fiber degradation and digestibility of nutrients have impact on improvement milk yield and milk composition. Milk compositions (%) of cows fed the experimental rations are showed in table (7) Cows fed ration containing silage treated with inoculants had almost higher ( $P < 0.05$ ) milk components (%) and fat yield (g/d). No significant differences ( $P < 0.05$ ) were found for milk lactose (%) among rations. These results indicated that either treatment with inoculants or with formic acid improved the milk yield, 4 % FCM milk composition (%) and yields (g/d) for cows fed these rations. In general effects of silage additives on cattle included increased silage intake, Zwi (2003) increased milk yield (Gordon, 1989) and improved milk composition (Selmar-Olsen and Mo, 1997).

**Table (8): Economic efficiency for lactating cows fed the experimental rations (mean± SE).**

Item	Control ration	R1	R2
Silage intake kg/h/day	17.00	18.700	18.500
CFM intake kg /h/day	6.00	6.00	6.00
Silage DM intake kg/h/day	5.00±0.54 <sup>c</sup>	5.60±0.67 <sup>ab</sup>	5.74±0.62 <sup>a</sup>
CFM DM intake kg /h/day	5.532	5.532	5.532
Total DM intake kg/h/day	10.500±0.75 <sup>bc</sup>	11.100±0.77 <sup>ab</sup>	11.240±0.72 <sup>a</sup>
Cost of total feed/LE/h/day	22.47	23.90	23.97
Price of milk yield(LE)	63.25	72.00	70.30
Net revenue	30.97	48.38	46.30
Economic Efficiency%	181.48	201.25	193.28

**abc Means within rows with different superscript are significantly differ ( $P < 0.05$ ).**

**Free market prices (LE/ton) for the whole silage corn= 510 LE**

**Free market prices (LE/ton) for the inoculants treated whole silage corn = 540**

**Free market prices (LE/ton) for the formic acid treated whole silage corn= 550**

**Free market prices (LE/ton) for CFM = 2300 LE**

**Free market prices (LE/kg) for milk yield 4% fat = 5 LE**

The DM silage intake silage in terms of, CFM and economic evaluations of the different rations treated are presented in Table (8). Dry matter intake was insignificantly higher for cows fed silage treated with formic acid than inoculated treated. These results may be due to increase dry matter

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in silage treated with formic acid than inoculants. While, cows fed un-treated silage recorded the lowest ( $P < 0.05$ ) DM silage intake. These results were in-agreement with Petterson *et al.*, (1997) who found that DM intake increased with silage containing lower percentage of acetic acid. Many studies have been reported a positive effect of formic acid and bacterial inoculants on increased silage intake and a beneficial effect on cattle performance Zwi (2003).

The economic efficiency% was higher for the cows fed silage treated with inoculants flowed formic acid treated and lower recorded with un-treated silage. Hafez *et al* (2012) indicated that feed cost to produce one Kg gain was less for lambs fed inoculated corn silage compared with un-inoculated and improved economic efficiency. Abido *et al* (2007) stated that using inoculated maize silage improved economic efficiency for lactating buffaloes.

## CONCLUSION

The addition of the inoculants or formic acid to WCS improved the quality of silage while formic acid reduced losses of nitrogen and increased of CP during ensilage which improved CP digestibility and NB. While, inoculants increased lactic acid and reduced of NDF that are impact to improved CF digestibility. So addition of the inoculants or formic acid to WCS led to positive improved in palatability of WCS silage and resulted in a higher ( $P < 0.05$ ) intake of treated silage by crossbred Friesian cows, in addition to increased production, milk composition and economic efficiency. Further works is needed on making silage from residues and determine the optimum levels of silage additives to be used on other kinds of animals and on various types of production.

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تأثير إضافة اللقاحات البكتيرية أو حمض الفورميك لنبات الذرة الكامل على جودة السيلاج و القيمة الغذائية في الأغنام - إنتاج اللبن وتركيبه في الأبقار الحلابه

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تم إضافة كل من اللقاحات البكتيرية أو حمض الفورميك إلي نباتات الذرة الكامل في مرحلة النضج لعمل السيلاج وذلك بهدف تقدير تأثير هذه الإضافات ( اللقاحات البكتيرية أو حمض الفورميك ) على التخمر خلال عملية السيلاج . أيضا تقدير معاملات هضم المواد الغذائية، و الإتران الأزوتي ، وخصائص الكرش ومعدل تحلل كل من DM، CF في الكرش وذلك باستخدام الأغنام التي تغذت علي العلائق التجريبية التي تحتوي على السيلاج غير المعامل أو المعامل. وكذلك تم تقدير كمية المأكول من السيلاج وتأثيره علي معدل إنتاج الحليب باستخدام الأبقار الفريزيان الهجين والتي تم تغذيتها تغذية حرة علي السيلاج بالإضافة الي 6 كم من العلف المركز . أشارت نتائج تقدير جودة السيلاج أن سيلاج حمض الفورميك سجل أقل قيمة معنوية ( $P < 0.05$ ) في قيمة الرقم الهيدروجيني ، والأمونيا نيتروجين، مجموع الأحماض الدهنية الطيارة و حامض اللاكتيك عن السيلاج المعامل باللقاحات و السيلاج غير المعامل. في حين ، أن نتائج الخواص الكيميائية والفيزيائية تدل على جودة السيلاج المعامل أو غير المعامل. أستخدمت عدد تسعة من أغنام البرقي في تجربة الهضم وتم تقسيمها إلي 3 مجموعات متماثلة 3 أغنام / مجموعة. تم تغذيتها علي واحدة من العلائق التجريبية R1، R2 أو المقارنة، والتي تحتوي على سيلاج اللقاحات البكتيرية ، سيلاج حمض الفورميك أو السيلاج غير المعامل علي التوالي. أظهرت النتائج تسجيل فروق ضئيلة غير معنوية ( $P < 0.05$ ) في معاملات هضم DM OM بين العلائق التجريبية. بينما سجلت أعلى نتيجة معنوية ( $P < 0.05$ ) من معامل هضم CP و NB مع العليقة التي تحتوي على سيلاج حمض الفورميك . وعلاوة على ذلك جميع الحيوانات التي تغذت علي العلائق التجريبية أظهرت NB إيجابي. في حين ، سجلت العليقة التي تحتوي على سيلاج اللقاحات البكتيرية أعلى قيمة معنوية ( $P < 0.05$ ) لمعامل هضم CF . ومع ذلك، كانت القيم الغذائية معبرا عنها بالمهضوم من البروتين الخام ومجموع المواد الغذائية المهضومة مرتفعة معنويا ( $P < 0.05$ ) مع العلائق التي تحتوي على سيلاج اللقاحات البكتيرية وسيلاج حامض الفورميك عن العليقة المقارنة. وتم تقدير تخمرات سائل الكرش باستخدام ثلاثة من إناث أغنام البرقي . وأظهرت النتائج الرئيسية أن تركيز  $NH_3-N$  كان مرتفعا مع الأغنام التي تغذت علي العليقة التي تحتوي سيلاج غير معامل و العليقة التي تحتوي على سيلاج اللقاحات البكتيرية علي الترتيب . في حين سجلت اعلي نتيجة معنوية ( $P < 0.05$ ) مع TVFA 'S الأغنام التي تغذت علي العلائق المحتوية علي سيلاج حمض الفورميك و سيلاج اللقاحات البكتيرية مقارنة بتلك التي تغذت علي عليقة المقارنة التي تحتوي سيلاج غير معامل. من ناحية أخرى، كان معدل تخليق البروتين الميكروبي منخفضا معنويا ( $P < 0.05$ ) مع الأغنام التي تغذت علي العلائق R1 ، R2 عند مقارنتها بتلك التي تغذت علي العليقة المقارنة و التي سجلت أعلى قيم. وأظهرت نتائج تحلل المادة الجافة و الألياف الخام زيادة معنوية ( $P < 0.05$ ) للعليقة التي تحتوي على سيلاج اللقاحات البكتيرية عن العليقة المقارنة . في حين ، ان العليقة التي تحتوي على سيلاج حمض الفورميك أظهرت قيمة متوسطة. وقد أظهرت نتائج المأكول من السيلاج ومعدل إنتاج اللبن ومكوناته زيادة كبيرة مع الأبقار التي تغذت سيلاج اللقاحات البكتيرية و وسيلاج حمض الفورميك . أيضا ، أظهرت إضافات السيلاج تحسين في صافي الإيرادات و الكفاءة الاقتصادية % . وتقدم دراسته تقنية جديدة للأستخدام الأمثل للمخلفات الزراعية كعلف تعويضي في تغذية المجترات وتقليص مشاكل البيئة.



