



# Protecting Stored Forage

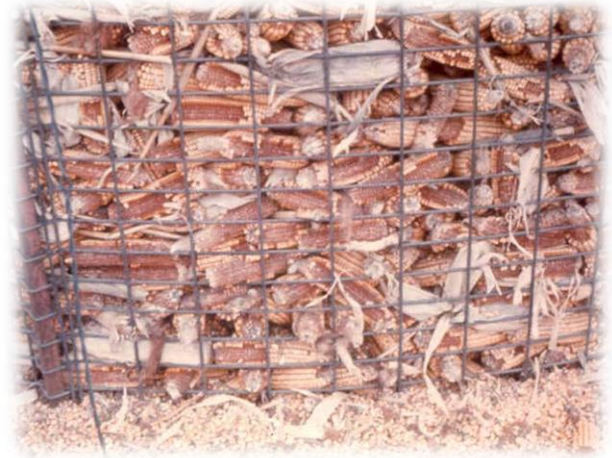
## Uses of Geo-Textile Fabric

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### Protecting Corn Cribs



Early Damage



Advanced damage



Installing geo-textile fabric



Protection complete

Geo-textile fabric has many applications beyond its designed uses for landscape and roadbed construction. It has proven to be a cost effective way to control deer damage to agricultural stored forage. As an offshoot of the carpet industry, geo-textile fabrics are manufactured in three standard widths 12.5', 15' and 17.5'. Special order widths of 22' and 24' are available by stitching narrower widths of fabric together. The cost of these fabrics varies from .44-.49 per square yard. A standard 14' corncrib requires approximately 40 square yards to protect. In this application 15' wide fabric was split lengthwise to attain a 7.5' width. Nylon electrical ties are used to secure the fabric to the welded wire of the crib. Total material cost to protect a single corncrib in this way is approximately \$25.00. Geo-textile is less costly and easier to handle than poultry netting. It has the added advantage, to the farmer, that there is no wire to be inadvertently introduced into the livestock feed.



## Protecting Ag Bags



Typical use of ag bags



An ag bag covered with geo-textile

Ag-bags are used for the storage of silage, high moisture corn, and other livestock forage. The bags are costly at upwards of \$500 each for larger bags, and cannot be reused. It is common practice for the farmer to leave the end of the bag open as the feed is used. This practice creates an open invitation to deer. Once deer have established a pattern of feeding control becomes difficult. The bags are easily punctured by random deer activity that allows new access points to the high quality feed. The bags are intended to store forage in an air-tight environment. Economic loss to the farmer results from spoiled feed. An advantage of geo-textile fabric is that is available in lengths sufficient to cover ag-bags in one continuous piece. Disadvantages are its weight and wind resistance.

## Other Uses of Geo-Textile Fabrics and Poly Products



Geo-textile fabrics can be used in many applications, such as that pictured to the left. In this situation, turkeys were entering a livestock feeding building and helping themselves to silage. While the fabric prevented access to turkeys, cattle were still allowed to enter the feeding area freely, and had no issues with pushing the geo-textile aside. As you can see, uses of this fabric are only limited by ones imagination.

The orange safety fence seen in the photo to the right was used to protect the end of baled hay from deer. It is pinned in place with fiberglass rods. This product is available in 6' x 50' rolls at an approximate cost of \$80.00/roll. It has proven to be very durable and quite versatile as a barrier to deer.

