

**FEED  
TECHNO  
VISION  
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# Optimizing process technology in times of Grain and Energy scarcity Part 2



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# Compacting – a refining process of the homogenously mixed mash

## Raw material / mash (55 – 65%)

- ◆ Physical characteristics
- ◆ Chemical characteristics
- ◆ Preparation of mash
- ◆ Pelleting aids

## Process control (15 – 20%)

- ◆ Steam conditioning
- ◆ Throughput regulation
- ◆ Moisture control
- ◆ Fine returns

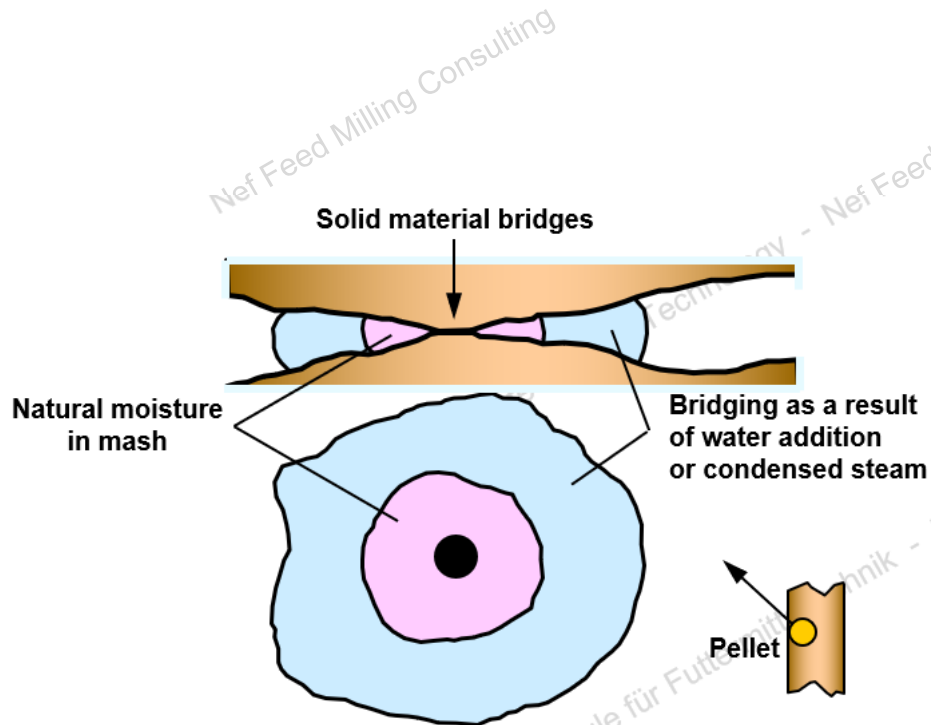
## Machine / Pellet mill (15 – 20%)

- ◆ Die circumferential speed
- ◆ Die configuration
- ◆ Roll configuration
- ◆ Roll gap adjustment

Behaviour in pelleting

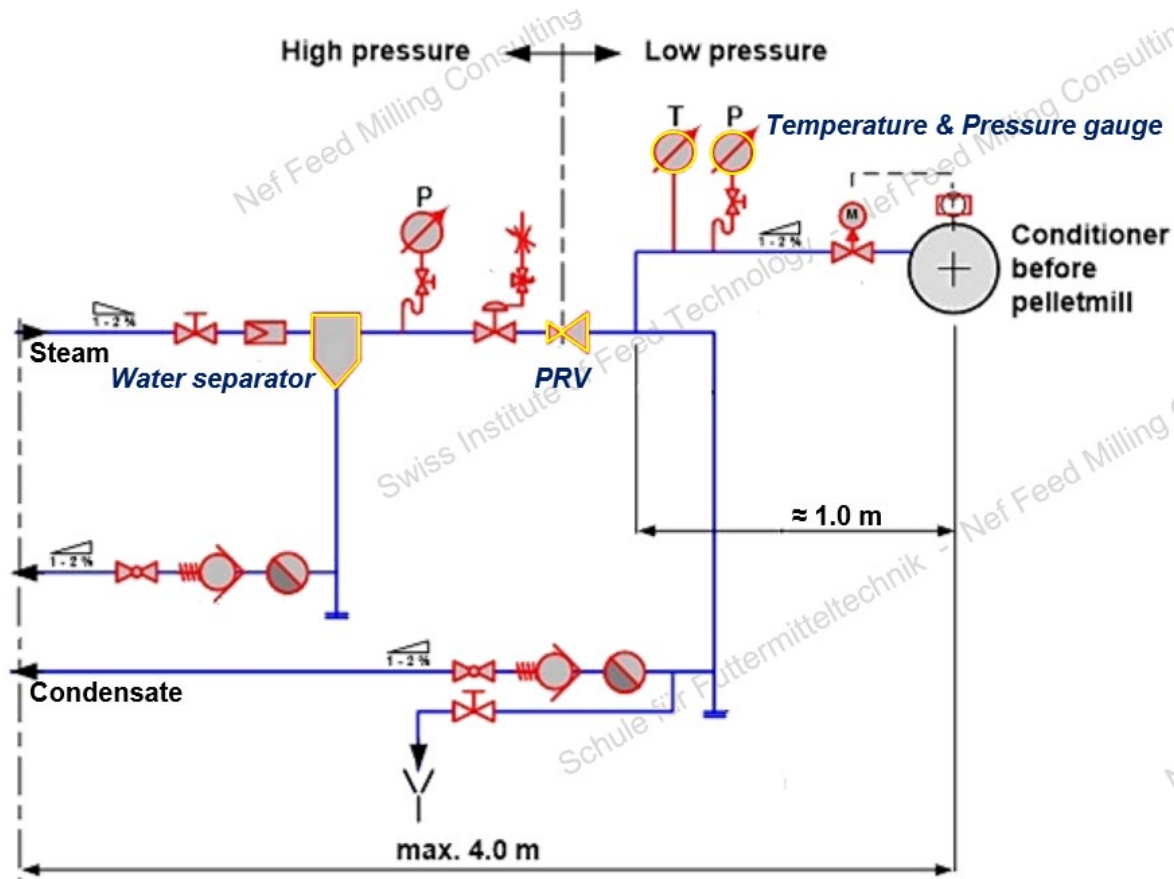
Pellet quality  
Stability / Durability  
Energy consumption





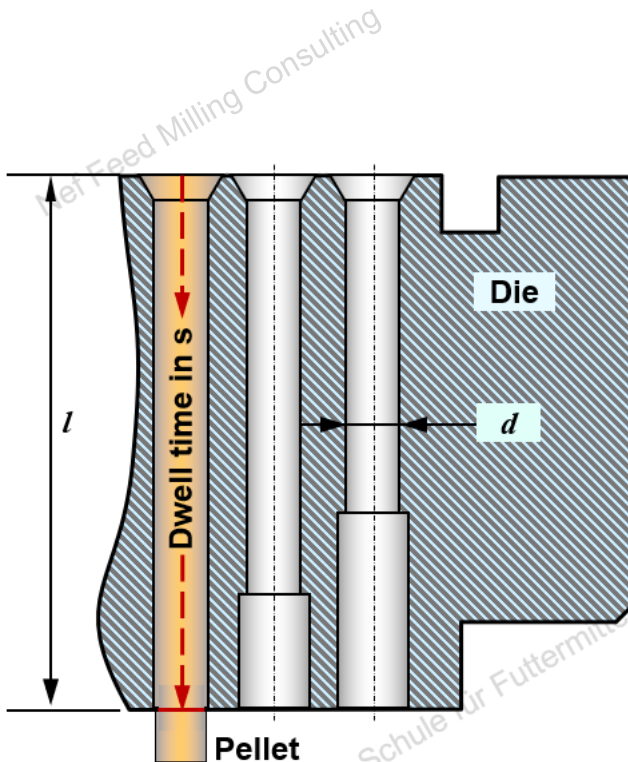
- ✦ **Steam Conditioning – introducing heat and moisture**
  - ◆ **Change of physical and chemical characteristics. Plasticizing solid particles, Creation of liquid bridges, Partial starch modification, Moisture balance.**
  - ◆ **Generally applies ...**
    - The higher the conditioning temperature the better the quality, the lower the specific energy.**
    - Limited at around 80 – 85°C.**
    - Max. moisture content, Destruction of nutrients.**
  - ◆ **Utilizing slightly superheated steam.**
    - 5 – 10°C above saturated steam temperature.**

# Compacting – a refining process of the homogenously mixed mash



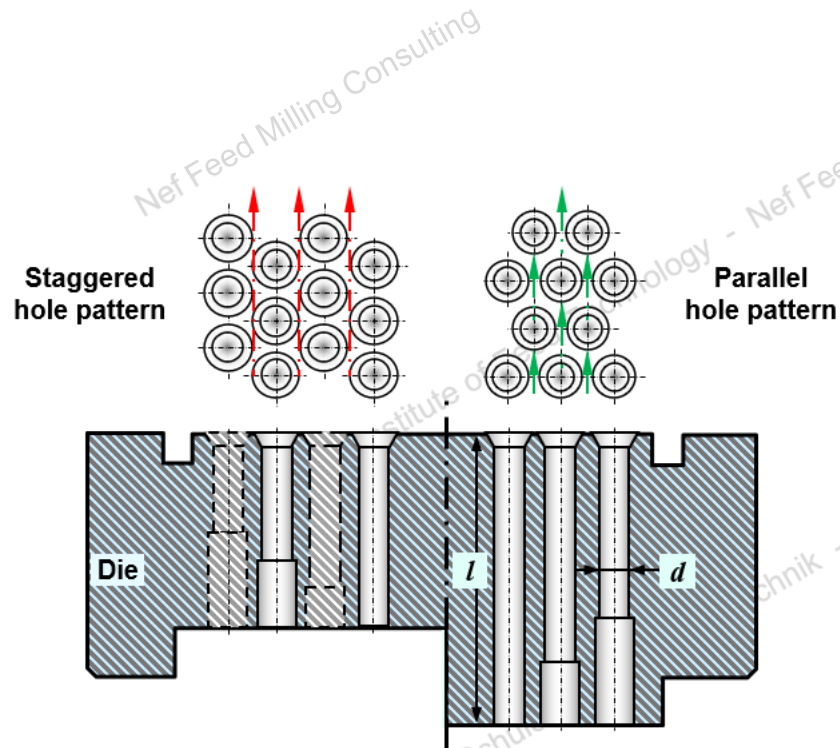
## Steam Installation – crucial fittings to consider

- ◆ *Steam supply from boiler 7 – 9 barG*
- ◆ *First steam drying step. Mechanical water separation.*
- ◆ *Second steam drying step. Pressure reduction (PRV).*
- ◆ *Steam temperature at a given pressure, provides information about steam quality.*
- ◆ *Insulated steam lines*



- ✚ Die configuration – dwell time in die hole
  - ◆ *Dwell time - a crucial parameter influenced by ....*
    - .... number of die holes.
    - .... volume of the die hole.
    - .... throughput of pellet mill.
  - ◆ *Generally applies ...*
    - The higher the dwell time in the die hole the better the pellet quality.*
    - Common dwell times around 3 – 5 sec.*
  - ◆ *Application of automatic roll gap adjustment.*
    - Intensive pre-compaction, simulation of die thickness.*

# Compacting – a refining process of the homogenously mixed mash



## Optimizing the pelleting process.

- ◆ **Die configuration.**
  - Die hole diameter ( $d$ ) & length ( $l$ ).
  - Compression ratio ( $d/l$ ) 1:10 – 1:15 ideal.
  - Manufacturing method – hole arrangement.
  - Die hole condition.
- ◆ **Press roll configuration.**
  - Diameter large as possible.
  - Shape and wear of roll surface – grooved/dimpled.
  - Product distribution to die surface.
- ◆ **Automatic process control.**
  - Set values in average higher & constant.
  - Energy savings of 5 – 10% feasible.

# Cooling & drying – for a safe and trouble-free storage

Limits by the plant layout:		Cooler size Product layer	Fan size Duct diameter
Limits by the product:		...	Fluidisation speed
Available parameters:		Retention time in min	Air volume in m <sup>3</sup> /min
		Influence high	Influence low
Temperature end product $\Delta T$ in °C	Too high spoilage / perish	↗	↗
	Too low inefficient	↘	↘
Moisture end product H <sub>2</sub> O in %	Too high spoilage / perish	↖	↖
	Too low loss in weight	↗	↗
		Influence low	Influence high

## ❖ Cooling & Drying of pellets with changing properties

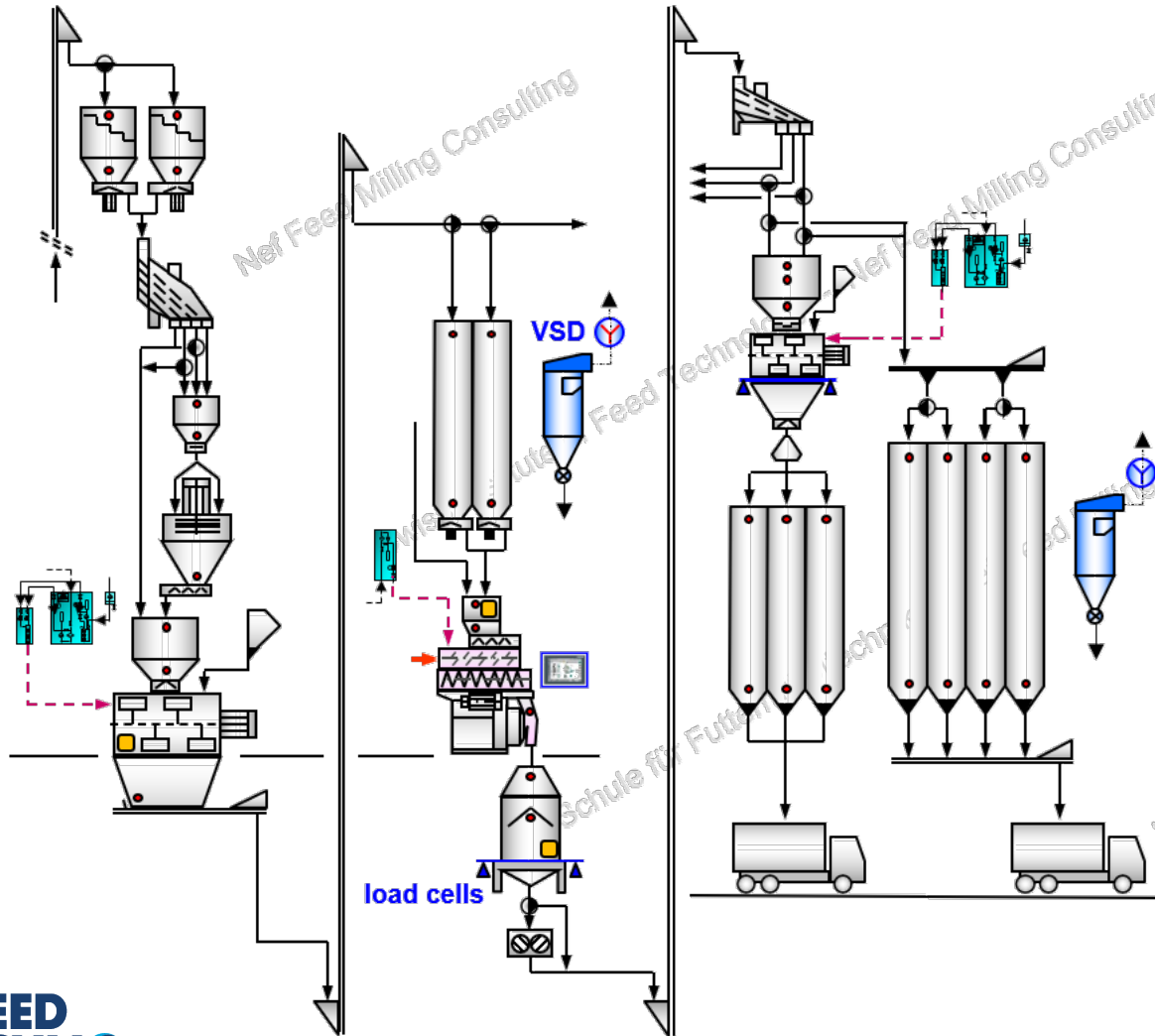
- ◆ **Adjustment of air volume and retention time.**  
*Pellet diameter, Product properties.*
- ◆ **Retention time – adjust height of product layer by ....**  
*.... moving the level probe (manual ..?).*  
*.... locating cooler on load cells (online).*
- ◆ **Air volume – adjust exhaust air system by ....**  
*.... positioning of butterfly valve (manual ..?).*  
*.... fan motor with variable speed drive VSD (online).*

## ❖ Target of the cooling & drying process

- ◆ **Product temperature 5 – 10°C above ambient.**
- ◆ **Product moisture 12 – 14% H<sub>2</sub>O ....**  
*.... at lowest energy consumption.*



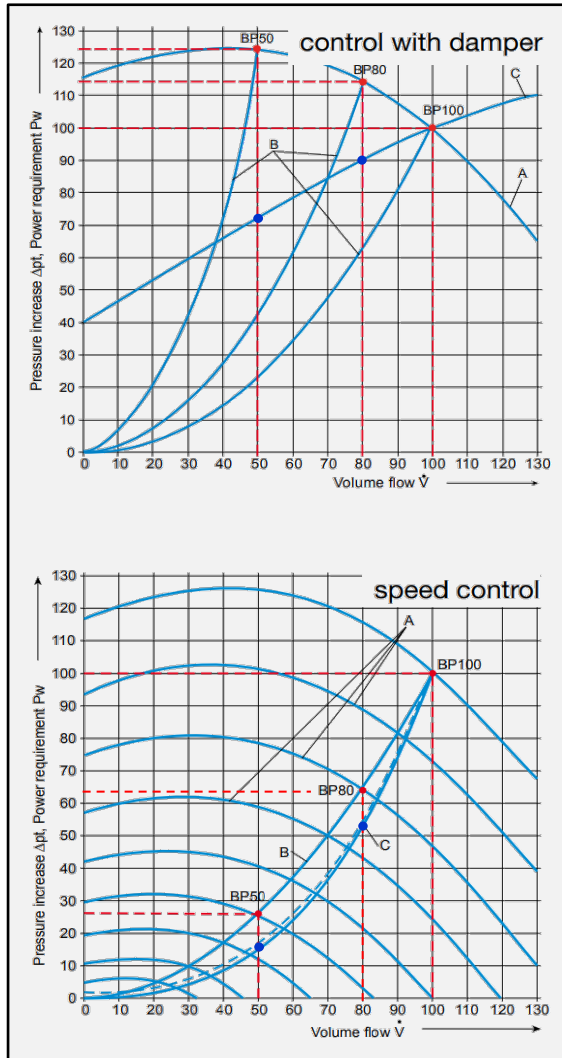
# Moisture management – online control improving quality and efficiency



- **Compensation of moisture fluctuations in raw material**
  - ◆ *Constant moisture content at the pelleting process.*
  - ◆ *Good and constant pellet quality.*
  - ◆ *Lower in energy consumption.*
  - ◆ *Higher availability of pellet mill.*
  - ◆ *Less product spoilage / mould formation.*
- **NIR or Microwave and Temperature sensor.**
- **Addition of water, possibly combined with additives (Mould inhibitors / Surfactants etc. ...??).**



# Variable Speed Drives (VSD) – Potentials for efficiency improvement



Source: Reitz Group

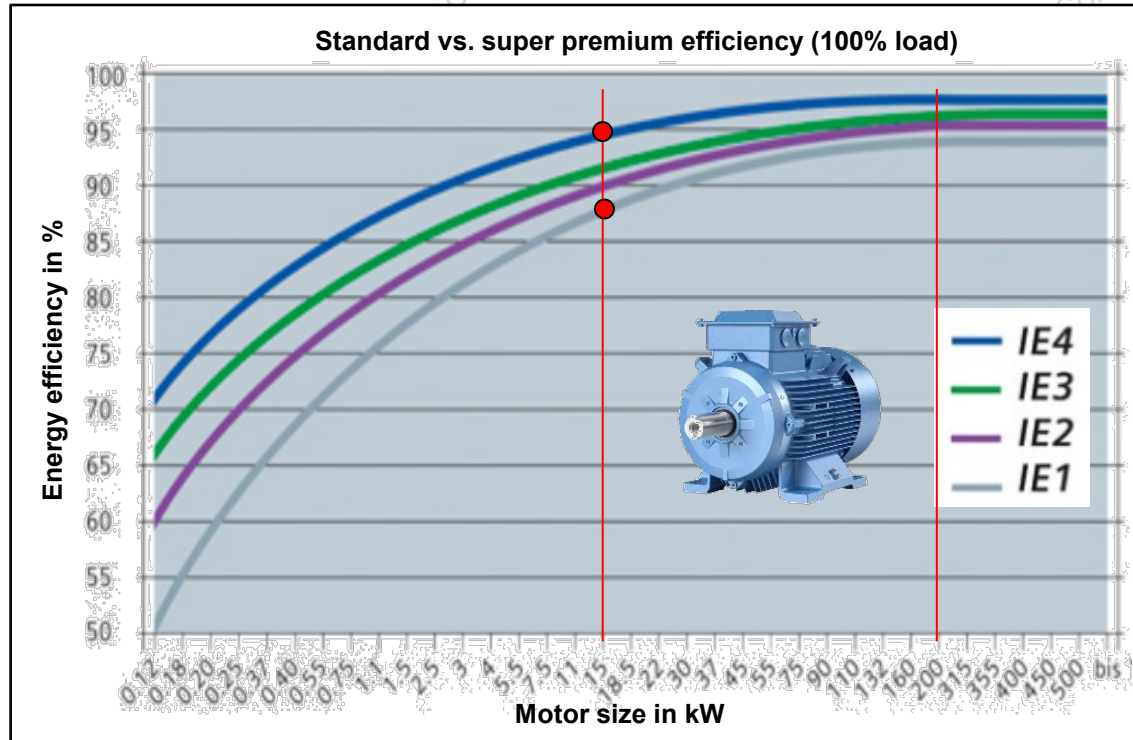
## ✚ Air volume control of a fan, air damper versus VSD

- ◆ Better performance of large fan motors with VSD. Energy savings of 20 – 40% possible. No efficiency losses.
- ◆ Change of fan speed, results in linear change of air volume.

## ✚ Typical application areas

- ◆ Cooler fan in pelleting lines.
- ◆ Compressors in compressed air systems.
- ◆ Pumps in liquid addition systems.
- ◆ Combustion-air fan at steam boilers.

# Motor efficiency levels (IE) – Potentials for efficiency improvement



Source: Siemens

➤ Efficiency classes for low voltage AC motors.  
(defined by IEC/EN 60034-30 / 2014)

- ◆ IE4 Super-Premium efficiency.
- ◆ IE3 Premium efficiency.
- ◆ IE2 High efficiency.
- ◆ IE1 Standard efficiency.

➤ Compulsory efficiency levels by 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017.

- ◆ Direct driven motors must be min. IE3 level.
- ◆ VSD driven motors must be at least IE2 level.

➤ Replacement of motors with IE1 & IE2 levels.

- ◆ IE3 & IE4 levels better stability under partial load.
- ◆ Savings with a 15 kW motor up to 8%.

➤ Contact your motor supplier!!

# Compressed air leakages – an underestimated cost driver

Hole diameter in mm	1	3	5	10
Leakage in l/s at 6 bar	1	10	27	105
Performance loss in kW at the compressor	0,3	3,1	8,3	33

20 “small” leakages each of 1.0 mm:

$20 \times 0.3 \text{ kW} \times 8760 \text{ hours/year} = 52'560 \text{ kWh/year}$

$52'560 \text{ kWh/year} \times 0.12 \text{ €/kwh} = 6'307 \text{ €/year}$

Source: Atlas Copco

## Compressed air systems

- ◆ *Keep pressures as low as possible.  
Reduction of 1 bar = energy savings of 5 – 6%.*
- ◆ *Application of VSD controlled compressors.  
Energy savings of 20 – 40% possible.*
- ◆ *Possibly recovery of energy.  
Heating of rooms or water ..??*
- ◆ *Find leakages & eliminate them.  
Small leakages are cost effective.*

## Proper adjustment of plant equipment

- ◆ *Aspiration bag filters.  
Pulse interval & pulse length.*