

COUNT ON CARGILL!

Research studies show...

Some corn hybrids better for silage

The choice of which hybrid to plant for corn silage can have a significant impact on dairy herd profitability.

Recent research shows that dairy producers who select corn silage hybrids based on both quality and yield could save up to 25 cents per cow per day in purchased feed costs. For a 100-cow herd, averaging 6,000 pounds of milk a day, that translates into an

annual savings of \$8,600.

"For the past several years we have been evaluating our hybrid lineup for important corn silage traits," says Jim Beck, Forage Quality Program Manager for Cargill Hybrid Seeds. "This research took place at Cargill facilities, universities and on the farms of cooperating growers

"Initially we discovered the answers to some simple ques-

tions, such as the tallest hybrid doesn't always produce the most tonnage per acre. We found that tonnage yields between two hybrids can differ from one to six tons per acre, even within the same maturity range.

"As research continued, it became quite apparent that factors such as crude protein, energy and fiber digestibility are highly variable among corn hybrids,"

notes Beck. "These factors can have a big impact on livestock performance."

The university portion of this research, which helped evaluate these quality traits, used a sophisticated in vitro rumen fermentation method of testing. The process involves the use of live ruminant microbial fluid to measure digestibility traits among corn hybrids.

Big differences in hybrids.

Extensive research found differences among hybrids of up to 20 percent in crude protein, 15 percent in energy and 30 to 45 percent in fiber digestibility. These differences are very repeatable from year to year.

"That means dairy producers now have much more information concerning the characteristics of corn silage hybrids and can select for traits that are most important to them," says Beck.

For example, high fiber digestibility is very important for top performance during early lactation. And high protein levels are more critical at times when supplemental protein prices are extremely high.

Since there are repeatable differences in protein and energy from low to high levels in the hybrids that were tested, dairy producers now have the potential to realize major economic benefits.

In addition, dry matter intake can be higher with forages with highly digestible fiber, which can result in higher milk production.

"The screening process to select the best hybrids from corn silage continues," says Beck. "The result of this research is our exclusive Menu, which is designed to aid customers in product selection. The corn silage Menu for dairy cows emphasizes important traits such as grain yield, silage tonnage, digestibility, intake potential and crude protein. Likewise, the Cargill beef cattle Menu focuses on traits important to beef producers, such as whole plant digestibility (TDN), percent grain content and whole plant crude protein.

"Cargill sales representatives are encouraged to use the Menu format to assist customers in selecting products to help them make more money," concludes Beck.

A Menu You Can Count On



CORN SILAGE Menu						
Effective August 1, 1990						
Maturity Day Range	Hybrid	Yield For Maturity		Whole Plant Quality		
		Grain Yield at 15.5% Moisture	Silage Tonnage at 70% Moisture	Digestibility (Energy)	Intake Potential	Crude Protein
80-100	809	8	8	8	8	6
	492	8	8	8	8	6
	362	8	8	8	8	6
100-110	363	8	8	8	8	6
	432	8	8	8	8	6
	532	8	8	8	8	6
	602	8	8	8	8	6
110-120	F24	8	8	8	8	6
	8	8	8	8	8	6
	993	8	8	8	8	6
	802	8	8	8	8	6
	8	8	8	8	8	6
	352	8	8	8	8	6
	02	8	8	8	8	6
	4	8	8	8	8	6

Which corn hybrids have the genetic potential to contribute traits important to top dairy production?

At Cargill Hybrid Seeds a new program is helping answer that question.

On-going research rates, on a scale of one to nine, the ability of our products to provide characteristics important to livestock.

This rating system, similar to other characteristic ratings such as disease resistance, assigns a score of nine to the very best, down to one, the poorest.

Only those hybrids that rate an eight or nine in at least one important quality trait are included in the menu (our current menu, effective August 1, 1990, is shown above). Hybrids not rated an eight or nine in a key trait are rejected.

This continuing process, which allows only the best hybrids to remain on the dairy menu, is designed to aid in product selection.

Researchers will continue to screen our hybrids to help ensure that we always have a menu you can count on.

If you're a dairy producer or farm supply dealer interested in learning more about our continuing research program, call this toll-free number

1-800-657-4810

We will schedule an appointment with a Cargill representative to show you a 12-minute video that explains the program in more detail and answers your questions.



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