

Cargill is serious about corn silage... our Pennsylvania customers are, too.

Since 1987, research from Michigan State University and Cargill data have scientifically verified what was long suspected: selecting the right-or wrong-corn hybrids for silage can make a big difference in your bottom line.

The research shows that most dairy producers can increase their earnings by better matching corn hybrid characteristics to their feeding needs. The work shows repeatable differences in important quality characteristics like whole plant digestibility, neutral detergent fiber, fiber digestibility, non-fiber carbohydrates and crude protein.

Here are comments from several Pennsylvania dairy producers and feed consultants about what Cargill's Forage Quality Program means to them.

DAVID MARTIN
Bellefonte, PA
(feed and seed sales)



This program has been of great interest to me because dry-matter intake is extremely important. It's also a program that allows dairy producers to utilize their forages in the best possible way. I have seen hybrids that looked great in the field but their quality was very poor. In the herds I work with, poor-quality roughage is one of the biggest limiting factors. Whenever we're having problems improving production, it's inevitably a problem from low-testing roughages and dry-matter intake is lower than it should be. If you're going to make it in the dairy business, you must have good quality roughage. By planting hybrids selected for their feeding quality you will increase dry-matter intake, reduce your cost of purchased feed and help improve herd health.

DENNIS REIMAN
Berlin, PA
(150 cows)



Having a Cargill TEP (Tonnage Evaluation Plot) on my farm has proven to me that hybrids that look good in the field may not necessarily be that great for feed quality and good digestibility. I picked one hybrid that I thought looked like the best in the field and it turned out to be one of the poorest in digestibility. Cargill has taken the lead in this cutting-edge technology. I appreciate the Menu system that they have developed so I can select hybrids that will best suit my operation. I consider several factors when selecting corn silage, but good digestibility is extremely important. It appears to me that cows consuming highly digestible corn silage will have less stress and they can draw the nutrients they need from silage in a much more efficient way.

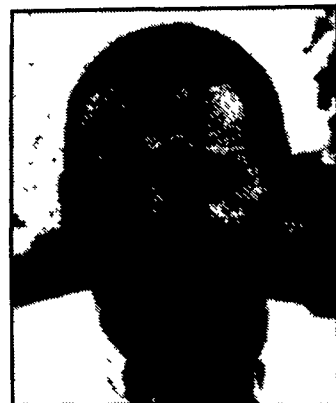
I never thought much about silage quality before Cargill developed this program. It has really opened my eyes.

RON BUTTERMORE
Mt. Pleasant, PA
(50 cows and seed sales)



The dairy producer has traditionally looked for corn that grew the tallest or had the biggest ear for corn silage. But Cargill's work has shown that there are other attributes that are very important to feeding quality. The more the cow can take in and digest as dry matter the more she's going to produce in milk, which means bottom-line profits.

WALLY YODER
Belleville, PA
(50 cows)



I feel that it's a very sound program. A lot of research and work has been put into these hybrids and the Forage Quality Program. Whether I'm using the program myself or go out and sell it to someone else, I know it is second to none.

CORN SILAGE MENU -

Maturity		Yield for Maturity					Plant Features				
Day Range	Hybrid	Kernel Texture	Stay Green	Plant Density	Bunker/Upright	Crude Protein					
Very Early 80-90	809	M	4	H							
	2217	M	8	H							
	2497	M	7	NA							
	2927	S	6	M							
Early 95-100	3427	S	6	LM							
	3477	H	7	H							
	3577	H	7	D/N	BK						
	X3303	M	7	M							
	3777	H	8	H	BK						
	3309FQ	S	7	H							
Medium 105-110	SX269	M	5	M/H							
	5547	S	6	M/L							
	6227A	S	7	D/N							
	6208FQ	M	7	LM							
	7697	M	8	H							
Med.-Late 115-120	8127	M	6	H							
	7557	H	9	H	BK						
	7777	S	7	LM							
	X7301	M	9	M							
	7897	H	9	LM	BK						
Late 120-130	8527A	M	8	M							
	8327	H	9	LM	BK						
	9027	S	8	H							
	9197	S	8	H							
	X9304	M	8	H							

RATING SCALE

- 9 - 8 = Outstanding
- 7 - 6 = Above Average
- 5 = Average
- 4 - 3 = Below Average
- 2 - 1 = Substandard

University conducted research supported by Cargill has built the data base developed by the use of In Vitro Rumen Fermentation technology. In Vitro Cell Wall Digestibility was used to measure fiber digestibility and correlation.

For Pennsylvania/Maryland/Virginia