



Hybrid Seeds

# FORAGE FOCUS EXTRA

**PROGRESSIVE  
PRODUCERS PENCIL  
OUT  
FullTime™  
FORAGE VALUE**

## MASON DIXON FARMS

Progressive dairy producers have found that FullTime™ forage gives them an edge in milk production. The Waybright family of Gettysburg, Pa., has owned Mason Dixon Farms for more than 200 years, and the current generation of seven siblings is on the cutting edge of dairy production technology. Thanks to a computerized data collection system, herd manager Doyle Waybright knows within 24 hours how much each one of 2,100 cows is eating and producing. Waybright fed FullTime forage to half of the best producers in the herd for three to four weeks.

Then he put the other half, which he used as a control group, on FullTime forage for two weeks. In both cases, he saw an average increase of nearly 3 pounds per cow per day. "One group even showed an increase of 6 pounds per cow per day," Waybright says. The Waybrights have ordered 200 bags of FullTime forage for this year. That's enough to plant 500 acres, or 40 percent, of their corn silage

acreage. "We would recommend that other dairy producers give FullTime forage a try," Waybright says.

### Better Than Shelled Corn

Dennis and Steve Bowman of Big Spring Farm Inc., Union Bridge, Md., fed FullTime forage to 160 cows - the top half of a 300-cow herd, plus the heifers. Milk production increase was 6 to 7 pounds per cow per day. "I penciled it out and found that 1 pound of milk more per cow per day covered the cost of FullTime forage," Steve Bowman says. After a six-week trial, the cows went off FullTime forage and milk production dropped 6 pounds per cow per day. The Bowmans were able to get production back up by adding more shelled corn to the ration, but the level is still not the same as it was with FullTime forage. They have ordered 38 bags for this year and hope to harvest enough to feed the top cows FullTime forage all year long.

### The Cows Love It!

Jay Tucker, owner of Blue Moo Dairy, Montpelier, Ind., shifted the total mixed ration (TMR) for his 375 cows from regular corn silage to FullTime forage over a two-week period. "The cows love it!" Tucker says of FullTime forage. And the ration was more than palatable. The highest-producing group of cows increased production 7 to 8 pounds of milk per cow per day while eating 4 pounds less grain. The entire herd average rose 5.71 pounds of milk per cow per day on a TMR that also included 5 pounds of hay. Tucker planted 100 acres of FullTime forage and stored the silage in a bunker silo. The corn yielded better than 15 tons per acre under greater-than-average drought stress, he notes. "We would recommend that dairy producers consider Cargill's FullTime forage as a tool to increase dry-matter intake and milk production while reducing feed cost," Tucker says.

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