PennState Extension

Tool Name

Extension Team:	Plant Science	Tool Version:	
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Description:

This report provides independent and unbiased information for the evaluation of commercial corn grain and silage hybrids available in Pennsylvania. The corn hybrid evaluation program provides farmers, seed corn companies and university personnel with information on the relative performance of corn hybrids gorwn under Pennsylvania conditions. It should be used to supplement other sources of information, such as seed industry performance tests, other independent testing data, and on-farm performance records, when making hybrid selection decisions.

User Instructions:

The "Background" tab provides information specific to each trial location. This information is useful to evaluate selected hybrids on your farm under your growing conditions and practices. The "Table" tab contains all the data needed to make a final determination of the proper hybrids for your operation. The first factor to consider when using this report is hybrid maturity. Moisture or dry matter is a good indicator of hybrid maturity. Hybrids with lower moisture or high dry matter are generally adapted to shorter season environments. Identify hybrids in the list that you know are adapted to your area. Then, select hybrids based on the qualities you are looking for on your operation. For grain, high yielding hybrids should be selected based on moisture and maturity. Silage has many quality factors that will vary from farm to farm. Dry matter is a good place to start when selecting a silage hybrid, but working with a nutritionist will help determine what forage qualities will be best for your operation. We do not recommend using data from a single site, even if it is close to your farm, to make hybrid selection choices. It is best to use data averaged over multiple locations. The last tab "Trait Key" contains all the commercial designation of individual traits. The "Table" tab will provide the company specific nomenclature, but the "Trait Key" will give a more in depth explanation of these traits.

References:

This report is prepared by: Alex Hristov (PSU Animal Sciences), Sergio Francisco (PSU Animal Sciences), Chris Canale (Cargill), Hanna Wells(PSU Plant Science), Dayton Spackman (PSU Plant Science), Charlie White (PSU Plant Science)

Acknowledgement of Risk:

2023
Penn State/PDMP Corn Silage Hybrid Performance Trial Results

Prepared by: Alex Hristov (PSU Animal Sciences), Sergio Francisco (PSU Animal Sciences), Chris Canale (Cargill), Hanna Wells(PSU Plant Science), Dayton Spackman (PSU Plant Science), Charlie White (PSU Plant Science)

Produced in cooperation with the Professional Dairy Managers of Pennsylvania (PDMP).

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Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences research, extension, and resident education programs are funded in part by Pennsylvania counties, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Production Details: Penn State/PDMP Corn Silage Hybrid Evaluation Trials

Site:		Landisville, PA
Cooperator		Southeast Agricultural Research Station
Planting Date		5/8/2023
Soil Type		
Herbicides	**pre-**	
	post-	
Previous Crop		
Tillage		
Starter Fertilizer		
Insecticide		
Manure		
Fertilizer		
Harvest Date		9/9/2023

Field Summary:

This was the first site planted for the 2023 season. Weed control was excellent at this location this year. Overall stand counts were good. Things looked good all summer until late August when they suffered a hot dry spell. This along with some gray leaf spot caused things to dry down very fast and it ended up being dryer than ideal at harvest.

Weather Summary:

Month	Precip. In.	GDD
May 8-May 31	0.2	257
June	6.4	556
July	6.5	844
August	1.1	695
September 1-9	0.00	242
Seasonal Total	**14.20**	**2594**

Precip. Data:	https://climate.com
GDD data:	http://climatesmartfarming.org/tools/csf-growing-degree-day-calculator/

Penn State/PDMP Corn Silage Hybrid Testing Program 2023

Late maturity (110-120) day RM silage hybrids in Landisville, PA

PennState Extension College of Agricultural Sciences & PDMP Professional Dairy Managers of Pennsylvania

Notes: SEE BACKGROUND TAB

Cooperator: Southeast Agricultural Research Station

						NIRS[3]					FDMS[4]			WC[5]				
Brand	Hybrid	Traits[1]	Relative Maturity	Pop. Plants/ac	Dry Matter %[2]	Crude Protein %DM	Lignin %DM	Ash %DM	Starch %DM	TFA %DM	NDFom %DM	uNDF 240 hr %DM	NDFD 30 %NDF	IVSD %Starch[6]	Fresh Yield tons/ac[7]	OM Yield tons/ac[8]	DOM Yield tons/ac[9]	OMD %[10]
111-114 day hybrids																		
Revere Seed	1307 TCRIB	37	113	34,000	47.4	7.5	3.3	2.7	43.6	2.5	35.3	12.7	49.2	55.2	19.7	6.7	3.8	56.0
Seed Consultants	SC1134AM	1	113	34,000	46.1	7.7	2.7	2.5	45.0	2.7	31.3	10.2	53.8	54.8	19.8	6.7	3.9	57.8
Mid-Atlantic	MA5144D	14	114	34,000	45.5	7.5	2.8	2.4	43.7	2.6	32.8	11.2	51.9	56.4	23.7	8.1	4.7	57.9
Pioneer	P14830Q	28	114	34,000	45.2	7.9	2.6	2.5	45.6	2.8	30.2	9.6	54.2	54.2	19.3	6.6	3.8	57.8
Seed Consultants	SC1112AM	1	111	34,000	45.1	7.7	2.9	2.7	43.6	2.5	32.8	11.2	52.2	54.8	21.8	7.4	4.3	57.3
Channel	212-40VT4PRIB	46	112	34,000	44.9	7.3	2.7	2.1	45.9	2.7	31.5	10.6	51.6	52.3	22.4	7.7	4.2	55.6
Growmark FS	FS 6202V RIB	43	112	34,000	44.3	7.6	2.7	2.1	46.8	2.9	29.4	10.8	48.7	54.3	23.8	8.2	4.6	56.1
Growmark FS	FS 6306T RIB	37	113	34,000	43.6	8.2	3.6	3.0	37.4	2.4	37.7	14.3	49.0	55.5	18.3	6.2	3.5	56.1
Kings Agriseeds	RT 61T99-D2	15	111	34,000	42.2	8.1	3.2	2.9	39.3	2.3	35.8	12.7	50.3	52.9	18.5	6.3	3.5	55.5
Seed Consultants	SC1122Q	28	112	34,000	42.0	7.5	2.8	2.0	43.1	2.6	32.4	11.1	52.0	56.3	19.5	6.7	3.9	58.0
Dekalb	DKC64-44RIB	32	114	34,000	42.0	7.9	2.9	1.9	41.1	2.6	34.7	12.1	51.3	56.4	20.2	6.9	4.0	57.7
Brevant	B12F08Q	28	112	34,000	41.9	7.8	2.7	1.9	44.4	2.7	30.2	10.4	51.5	56.9	22.8	7.8	4.6	58.3
Kings Agriseeds	RT 64T39-D1	14	114	34,000	41.8	7.3	3.0	2.5	40.1	2.4	35.2	12.5	51.5	58.5	21.3	7.3	4.3	58.6
Dekalb	DKC61-80RIB	32	111	34,000	41.7	7.6	3.2	2.0	41.1	2.6	33.9	12.6	48.9	57.2	20.4	7.0	4.0	57.1
Mid-Atlantic	MA5124VIP3110	12	112	34,000	41.6	7.6	3.1	2.1	44.8	2.9	29.9	11.8	45.9	56.5	21.1	7.2	4.1	56.3
Masters Choice	MCT6367-D	15	113	34,000	41.6	7.2	3.0	2.2	41.2	2.6	33.8	11.8	50.9	57.2	18.4	6.3	3.6	57.7
Dekalb	DKC61-40RIB	32	111	34,000	40.8	7.7	2.9	2.3	44.2	2.8	32.6	10.9	52.0	58.4	19.4	6.6	3.9	59.2
Hubner	H6755RCSS	32	114	34,000	40.4	7.5	3.0	2.4	42.2	2.6	33.6	12.1	50.7	60.6	20.5	7.0	4.2	59.6
Growmark FS	FS 6424V RIB	43	114	34,000	39.8	7.4	3.5	2.1	36.7	2.3	37.3	14.3	47.3	62.0	20.7	7.1	4.1	58.3
			111-114 day means		*43.0*	*7.6*	*3.0*	*2.3*	*42.6*	*2.6*	*33.2*	*11.7*	*50.7*	*56.3*	*20.6*	*7.0*	*4.1*	*57.4*
115-118 day hybrids																		
Revere Seed	1524 DV	15	115	34,000	45.3	7.4	2.6	2.0	47.6	2.5	30.0	10.2	50.2	56.4	18.7	6.4	3.7	57.4
Seed Consultants	SC1183AM	1	118	34,000	44.5	7.2	2.6	2.1	45.7	2.8	29.1	9.7	52.3	57.0	22.7	7.8	4.6	58.5
Mid-Atlantic	MA5161DV	14	116	34,000	44.0	7.4	3.1	2.6	39.9	2.2	35.7	12.2	50.8	58.0	18.9	6.5	3.7	57.9
Pioneer	P17677Q	28	117	34,000	43.4	7.9	3.4	3.1	38.3	2.5	38.1	13.4	52.7	57.4	22.5	7.6	4.5	58.5
Chemgro	7539D4Z	14	115	34,000	43.2	7.6	3.0	2.6	40.1	2.3	34.4	11.9	50.9	57.8	20.7	7.1	4.1	58.2
Seed Consultants	SC1154AM	1	115	34,000	42.2	7.8	2.6	2.3	39.1	2.5	34.0	10.5	56.6	52.9	19.3	6.6	3.8	58.1
Revere Seed	1839 TCRIB	37	118	34,000	42.2	7.4	3.2	2.5	41.2	2.9	34.7	12.6	49.5	54.4	19.6	6.7	3.7	55.9
Agrigold	A645-16	32	115	34,000	41.1	8.1	2.9	2.0	40.0	2.6	33.6	11.5	51.8	55.5	20.1	6.9	4.0	57.7
Pine Creek Seed	R6812GT	9	118	34,000	41.0	7.6	3.5	2.6	36.7	2.3	38.1	13.9	49.5	56.9	20.3	6.9	4.0	56.9
Agrigold	A647-35	15	117	34,000	40.9	7.7	2.8	2.2	42.8	2.5	31.6	11.2	50.2	58.2	20.1	6.9	4.0	58.4
Growmark FS	FS 6595V RIB	43	115	34,000	40.6	7.2	3.6	2.8	35.1	2.3	40.8	14.6	51.7	57.8	18.3	6.2	3.6	58.0
Channel	215-99STXRIB	32	115	34,000	40.0	7.1	3.6	2.0	37.4	2.5	37.6	14.7	47.1	57.2	19.4	6.6	3.7	55.9
Chemgro	7789RSX	32	117	34,000	39.6	7.8	3.0	2.3	38.7	2.5	34.7	12.6	50.6	61.6	20.3	6.9	4.2	59.9
Dekalb	DKC67-66RIB	32	117	34,000	39.0	7.2	3.6	1.9	35.0	2.2	38.9	15.0	46.0	56.8	20.4	7.0	3.8	54.9
			115-118 day means		*41.9*	*7.5*	*3.1*	*2.4*	*39.8*	*2.5*	*35.1*	*12.4*	*50.7*	*57.0*	*20.1*	*6.9*	*4.0*	*57.6*
				Overall Mean	**42.6**	**7.6**	**3.0**	**2.3**	**41.4**	**2.5**	**34.0**	**12.0**	**50.7**	**56.6**	**20.4**	**7.0**	**4.0**	**57.5**
				LSD(0.1)	**3.7**	**0.4**	**0.4**	**0.6**	**5.4**	**0.3**	**4.5**	**2.0**	**2.3**	**NS**	**2.8**	**1.0**	**0.6**	**NS**
				CV%	**6.3**	**3.5**	**9.9**	**17.2**	**9.5**	**8.2**	**9.6**	**12.4**	**3.3**	**7.5**	**9.8**	**9.9**	**10.2**	**3.7**

Penn State/PDMP Corn Silage Hybrid Testing Program 2023

Late maturity (110-120) day RM silage hybrids in Landisville, PA

Notes: SEE BACKGROUND TAB

Cooperator: Southeast Agricultural Research Station

						NIRS[3]					FDMS[4]			WC[5]				
Brand	Hybrid	Traits[1]	Relative Maturity	Pop. Plants/ac	Dry Matter %[2]	Crude Protein %DM	Lignin %DM	Ash %DM	Starch %DM	TFA %DM	NDFom %DM	uNDF 240 hr %DM	NDFD 30 %NDF	IVSD %Starch[6]	Fresh Yield tons/ac[7]	OM Yield tons/ac[8]	DOM Yield tons/ac[9]	OMD %[10]

[1] **Traits:** See tab " Trait Key" for individual trait designation.

[2] **Dry Matter:** Tables are sorted by dry matter. *Avoid making comparisons with hybrids that differ significantly in dry matter.*

[3] **NIRS**: Near Infrared Spectroscopy

[4] **FDMS:** In 2022 Cumberland Valley Analytical Services introduced a new in vitro fiber digestibility system, called Feed Degradation Modeling System (FDMS), to predict NDFD for all major forage classes, including fresh corn silage. We

[5] **WC**: Wet Chemistry

[6] **IVSD:** Starch digestibiliy (% of starch) is analyzed by an in vitro wet chemistry method on samples ground through a 1-mm screen and incubated for 4 hours (IVSD).

[7] **Fresh Yield:** Silage yields are expressed on a 35 percent DM basis; all other parameters are expressed on a dry matter basis.

[8] **OM Yield:** Silage yield (tons/ac) expressed on an organic matter (OM) basis.

[9] **DOM Yield:** Yield of digestible organic matter.

[10] **OMD: Organic Matter Digestibility -** Please see "OMD Story" tab for information on how to use this column

NS = Not Significant

Prepared by: Alex Hristov (PSU Animal Sciences), Sergio Francisco (PSU Animal Sciences), Chris Canale (Cargill), Hanna Wells(PSU Plant Science), Dayton Spackman (PSU Plant Science), Charlie White (PSU Plant Science)

Handy BT Trait Table - https://www.texasinsects.org/uploads/4/9/3/0/49304017/bttraittable_feb_2023.pdf

Trait ID #	Trait packages, listed A-Z = former name if applicable	Bag-Tag code	Toxins in package**** Font type denotes target Caterpillar or *rootworm*	BCW	CEW	ECB	FAW	SB	SCB	SWCB	TAW	WBC	CRW	Resistance cases for all Bts in package	Non-Bt refuge, cornbelt	Herbicide tolerance
0	Conventional															
1	AcreMax	AM	Cry1Ab - Cry1F	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				CEW FAW WBC	5% in bag	GLY LL
2	AcreMax CRW	AMRW	*Cry34Ab1 - Cry35Ab1*										x	NCR WCR	10% in bag	GLY LL
3	AcreMax1	AM1	Cry1F - *Cry34Ab1 - Cry35Ab1*	x		x	x	x	x	x			x	ECB FAW NCR SWCB WBC WCR	10% in bag 20% ECB	GLY LL
4	AcreMax Leptra	AML	Cry1Ab - Cry1F - Vip3A	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			5% in bag	GLY LL
5	AcreMax TRIsect	AMT	Cry1Ab - Cry1F - *mCry3A*	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	CEW FAW WBC WCR	10% in bag	GLY LL
6	AcreMax Xtra	AMX	Cry1Ab - Cry1F - *Cry34Ab1 - Cry35Ab1*	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	CEW FAW NCR WBC WCR	10% in bag	GLY LL
7	AcreMax Xtreme	AMXT	Cry1Ab - Cry1F - *Cry34Ab1 - Cry35Ab1 - mCry3A*	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	CEW FAW WBC WCR	5% in bag	GLY LL
8	Agrisure 3010	3010	Cry1Ab		x	x			x	x				CEW	20%	GLY LL
9	Agrisure 3000 GT & 3011A	3000GT 3011A	Cry1Ab - *mCry3A*		x	x			x	x			x	CEW WCR	20%	GLY LL
10	Agrisure Above = Agrisure 3120EZ	AA	Cry1Ab - Cry1F	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				CEW FAW WBC	5% in bag	GLY LL - check bag
11	Agrisure Total = Agrisure 3122EZ	AT	Cry1Ab - Cry1F - *Cry34Ab1 - Cry35Ab1 - mCry3A*	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	CEW FAW WBC WCR	5% in bag	GLY LL - check bag
12	Agrisure Viptera 3110	3110	Cry1Ab - Vip3A	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			20%	GLY LL
13	Agrisure Viptera 3111	3111	Cry1Ab - Vip3A - *mCry3A*	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	WCR	20%	GLY LL
14	Duracade = AgrisureDuracade 5122EZ	D	Cry1Ab - Cry1F - *eCry3.1Ab - mCry3A*	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	CEW FAW WBC WCR	5% in bag	GLY LL - check bag
15	Duracade Viptera = AgrisureDuracade 5222EZ	DV	Cry1Ab - Cry1F - Vip3A - *eCry3.1Ab - mCry3A*	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	WCR	5% in bag	GLY LL - check bag
16	Duracade Viptera Z3 = AgrisureDuracade 5332EZ	DVZ	Cry1Ab - Cry1A.105 - Cry2Ab2 - Vip3A - *eCry3.1Ab - mCry3A*	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	WCR	5% in bag	GLY LL - check bag
17	Herculex I	HXI	Cry1F	x		x	x	x	x	x				ECB FAW SWCB WBC	20%	GLY LL
18	Herculex RW	HXRW	*Cry34Ab1 - Cry35Ab1*										x	NCR WCR	20%	GLY LL
19	Herculex XTRA	HXX	Cry1F - *Cry34Ab1 - Cry35Ab1*	x		x	x	x	x	x			x	ECB FAW NCR SWCB WBC WCR	20%	GLY LL
20	Intrasect	YHR	Cry1Ab - Cry1F	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				CEW FAW WBC	5%	GLY LL
21	Intrasect TRIsect	CYHR	Cry1Ab - Cry1F - *mCry3A*	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	CEW FAW WBC WCR	20%	GLY LL
22	Intrasect Xtra	YXR	Cry1Ab - Cry1F - *Cry34Ab1 - Cry35Ab1*	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	CEW FAW NCR WBC WCR	20%	GLY LL
23	Intrasect Xtreme	CYXR	Cry1Ab - Cry1F - *Cry34Ab1 - Cry35Ab1 - mCry3A*	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	CEW FAW WBC WCR	5%	GLY LL
24	Leptra	VYHR	Cry1Ab - Cry1F - Vip3A	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			5%	GLY LL
25	Powercore	PW	Cry1A.105 - Cry2Ab2 - Cry1F	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				CEW WBC	5%	GLY LL
26	Powercore Refuge Advanced	PWRA	Cry1A.105 - Cry2Ab2 - Cry1F	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				CEW WBC	5% in bag	GLY LL
27	Powercore Enlist Refuge Advanced	PWE	Cry1A.105 - Cry2Ab2 - Cry1F	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				CEW WBC	5% in bag	GLY LL 2,4-D fops
28	QROME	Q	Cry1Ab - Cry1F - *Cry34Ab1 - Cry35Ab1 - mCry3A*	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	CEW FAW WBC WCR	5% in bag	GLY LL
29	SmartStax	SS, SX	Cry1A.105 - Cry2Ab2 - Cry1F - *Cry3Bb1 - Cry34Ab1 - Cry35Ab1*	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	CEW NCR WBC WCR	5%	GLY LL
30	SmartStax Refuge Advanced	SXRA	Cry1A.105 - Cry2Ab2 - Cry1F - *Cry3Bb1 - Cry34Ab1 - Cry35Ab1*	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	CEW NCR WBC WCR	5% in bag	GLY LL
31	SmartStax Enlist	SSE	Cry1A.105 - Cry2Ab2 - Cry1F - *Cry3Bb1 - Cry34Ab1 - Cry35Ab1*	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	CEW NCR WBC WCR	5% in bag	GLY LL 2,4-D fops
32	SmartStax RIB Complete	SS SSRIB	Cry1A.105 - Cry2Ab2 - Cry1F - *Cry3Bb1 - Cry34Ab1 - Cry35Ab1*	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	CEW NCR WBC WCR	5% in bag	GLY LL
33	SmartStax PRO Refuge Advanced	SSPro	Cry1A.105 - Cry2Ab2 - Cry1F- *Cry3Bb1 - Cry34Ab1 -Cry35Ab1 - dvSnf7*	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	CEW WBC	5% in bag	GLY LL
34	SmartStax PRO Enlist Refuge Advanced		Cry1A.105 - Cry2Ab2 - Cry1F- *Cry3Bb1 - Cry34Ab1 - Cry35Ab1 - dvSnf7*	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	CEW WBC	5% in bag	GLY LL 2,4-D fops
35	SmartStax PRO with RNAi Technology	SSPRORIB	Cry1A.105 - Cry2Ab2 - Cry1F- *Cry3Bb1 - Cry34Ab1 - Cry35Ab1 - dvSnf7*	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	CEW WBC	5% in bag	GLY LL
36	Trecepta	TRE,TRC	Cry1A.105 - Cry2Ab2 - Vip3A	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			5%	GLY
37	Trecepta RIB Complete	TRERIB TRCRIB	Cry1A.105 - Cry2Ab2 - Vip3A	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			5% in bag	GLY
38	TRIsect	CHR	Cry1F - *mCry3A*	x		x	x	x	x	x			x	ECB FAW SWCB WBC WCR	20%	GLY LL
39	Viptera = AgrisureViptera 3220EZ	V	Cry1Ab - Cry1F - Vip3A	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			5% in bag	GLY LL - check bag
40	Viptera Z3 = AgrisureViptera 3330EZ	VZ	Cry1Ab - Cry1A.105 - Cry2Ab2 - Vip3A	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			5% in bag	GLY LL - check bag
41	Vorceed Enlist	V	Cry1A.105 - Cry2Ab2 - Cry1F- *Cry3Bb1 - Cry34Ab1 - Cry35Ab1 - dvSnf7*	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	CEW NCR WBC	5% in bag	GLY LL 2,4-D fops
42	VT Double PRO	VT2P VT2PRO	Cry1A.105 - Cry2Ab2		x	x	x	x	x	x				CEW	5%	GLY
43	VT2P RIB Complete	VT2PRIB	Cry1A.105 - Cry2Ab2		x	x	x	x	x	x				CEW	5% in bag	GLY
44	VT TriplePRO	VT3P	Cry1A.105 - Cry2Ab2 - *Cry3Bb1*		x	x	x	x	x	x			x	CEW NCR WCR	20%	GLY
45	VT3P RIB Complete	VT3PRIB	Cry1A.105 - Cry2Ab2 - *Cry3Bb1*		x	x	x	x	x	x			x	CEW NCR WCR	10% in bag	GLY

46	VT4Pro w/RNAi Tech.	VT4PRO	Cry1A.105 - Cry2Ab2 - Vip3A - *Cry3Bb1 - dvSnf7*	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		5% in bag	GLY
47	YieldGard Corn Borer	YGCB	Cry1Ab		x	x			x	x				CEW	20%	GLY
48	YieldGard Rootworm	YGRW	*Cry3Bb1*										x	NCR WCR	20%	GLY
49	YieldGard VT Triple	VT3	Cry1Ab - *Cry3Bb1*		x	x			x	x			x	CEW NCR WCR	20%	GLY

The OMD Index

The digestibility of nutrients in corn silage is paramount when determining nutritional value. Starch and NDF are responsible for much of the digestible energy in corn silage. In order to give dairy producers and nutritionist a tool to evaluate corn silage hybrids, we developed a new digestibility index, called the Organic Matter Digestibility Index (OMDI or just OMD), and is based on digestibility of protein, fat, NDF, and starch. The sum of which makes up approximately 86-88% of the organic matter in corn silage.

The OMD index represents the digestible portion of silage organic matter and is based on chemical analyses only. It does not predict dry matter intake or milk production, although numerous studies clearly show that digestibility of forage organic matter is directly related to lactation performance of dairy cows. The OMD index does not represent the absolute digestibility of silage organic matter, as this can be reliably determined only in experiments with live animals. But, OMD is representative of the potentially digestible organic matter of the whole plant and can be used to compare silage hybrids. Furthermore, simulation analyses using the Cornell Net Carbohydrate and Protein System (CNCPS v. 6.55; Cornell University, Ithaca, NY) show that OMD correlates reasonably well with model-predicted milk production of dairy cows fed a standard diet containing approx. 40% corn silage (dry matter basis).

How is the OMD Index Used?

Feeding value of corn silage is mostly associated with digestibility of NDF or starch. A long-standing goal of PDMP is to create a single measure of silage nutritive value using several variables associated with digestibility. Traditional variables, crude protein (accounted for fiber-bound nitrogen), NDF, starch, lignin, and fat, are combined with digestibility determinations for NDF (FDMS NDFD30*) and starch (IVSD; 4-hour, 1-mm grind). Once combined, these digestibility coefficients sum to predict OMD.

* FDMS: In 2022 Cumberland Valley Analytical Services introduced a new in vitro fiber digestibility system, called Feed Degradation Modeling System (FDMS), to predict NDFD for all major forage classes, including fresh corn silage. We determined the relationship between FDMS NDFD30 and wet chemistry NDFD30 was strong enough to use FDMS NDFD30, and avoid the extra charge for wet chemistry NDFD30. Hence, FDMS NDFD30 will be used to calculate OMD. Hence, FDMS NDFD30 = 100

The OMD Index is calculated using the following equation: OMDI (%) = {[(crude protein – NDFCP) × 0.89] + (total fatty acids × 0.75) + (starch × IVSD ÷ 100) + [(FDMS NDFom - lignin) × FDMS NDFD30 ÷ 100)]} ÷ [(crude protein – NDFCP) + total fatty acids + starch + (aNDFom – lignin)] × 100.

Where: OMDI (%) is Organic Matter Digestibility Index; crude protein, total fatty acids, starch, NDFCP (NDF-bound crude protein), aNDFom (ash-free basis, amylase-treated NDF), and lignin (ash-free) are expressed as % of corn silage dry matter; 0.89 is assumed (based on literature data) coefficient of digestibility of silage crude protein; 0.75 is assumed (based on literature data) coefficient of digestibility of silage total fatty acids; IVSD is starch digestibility (by wet chemistry at 4-hour and sample ground through a 1-mm sieve) expressed as % of starch; and FDMS NDFD30.

Use of OMDI: The OMD index is intended to represent the digestible portion of silage dry matter and is based on chemical analyses. OMD does not represent the absolute digestibility of silage organic matter, but it is representative of the potentially digestible organic matter and can be used when comparing silage hybrids. ***Simply put, the higher the OMD value, the higher the overall expected digestibility of the silage.*** OMD reflects the digestibility of key nutrients within the entire plant. Producers without carryover of silage should consider the interaction of OMD and DOM (digestible organic matter yield per acre) as yield of digestible organic matter will be equally as relevant as OMD.

Conclusion

Organic matter digestibility is not a new measure. For years, researchers and nutritionists have used digestibility estimates to formulate rations for dairy cattle. Today, integrating these data is a useful practice to gauge silage value and match hybrid to farm needs. Put simply, OMD measures whole plant digestibility. Emphasis is on digestibility of all main nutrients. In the end, we hope OMD serves to facilitate discussion among producer, seed consultant, and dairy nutritionist as to which hybrids offer the best nutrient value for dairy cows.