

What's Cropping Up?

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Cornell University evaluates 95-115 day corn silage hybrids at two locations in central/western NY and 75-100 day corn silage hybrids at two locations in Northern NY. We arrange the hybrids in the field into 5-day relative maturity (RM)

groups (i.e. 95-100, 101-105 day hybrids, etc.) and harvest one or more RM groups at a particular site when the hybrids are in the 60-70% moisture range. We also take an initial 10,000-gram sample from each plot and then sub-sample to 700 grams to determine moisture and to run silage quality analyses on all four replications of each hybrid at each site.

MILK2006, a spreadsheet from the University of Wisconsin, calculates milk/ton, a silage quality index, derived from neutral detergent fiber (NDF), NDF digestibility (30 hr), crude protein, ash, and starch concentrations from the quality analyses. MILK2006 also calculates milk yield/acre of each hybrid by combining silage yield and milk/ton values. We recommend hybrids that have comparative milk yields of greater than 100 across the two sites (the average milk yield of each hybrid RM group is adjusted to 100 and hybrids within the RM group with above-average milk yields have values above 100). We list the comparative milk yields as well as comparative silage yields and milk/ton values for recommended hybrids in central/western (Table 1) and Northern NY (Table 2). **Hybrids within each table should only be compared within RM groups. Hybrids that have been tested more than 1 year should be given more weight because they have performed above-average in more environments.**

Central/Western NY

New hybrids dominated the 94-100 day RM performances in 2008. The hybrids 88C97CB/LL from Garst, 5057VT3 from GROWMARK FS, and 1900F/RR/HX from LICA had exceptional silage yields at both Aurora and Groveland Station in 2008. Also, HiD.F.-3000-6 from Dairyland Seed had the highest silage yield in the 94-100 day RM at Groveland Station. The hybrid 54T42 from Dyna-Gro Seed had high

Recommended Corn Silage Hybrids for New York

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silage yields for the second year in a row, especially at the Aurora site in 2008.

The new hybrid 4888 from GROWMARK FS had above-average milk/ton values in 2008 and N39Q-CB/LL/RW, a new NK brand hybrid, had above-

average yields at both sites. The hybrids 946 LRR and 99 S7 from LICA had exceptional silage yields for the second or third year in a row.

The hybrid TA557-00F from T.A. Seeds continued to perform well in 2008 in the 101-105 day RM group with above-average silage yields, especially at Groveland Station. New hybrids, however, also dominated the 101-105 day RM group with 1056 SRR from LICA and HL B337 and HL SVT50 from Hyland having much above-average silage yields at both sites. Also, the new hybrid 552GR from Doebler's had above-average silage yields and above-average milk/ton values at both sites in 2008. Another new hybrid from Hyland, HL SR59, also had above-average silage yields at both sites.

The new hybrid HTS62-01CR from HYTEST SEEDS had the highest average silage yields in the 106-110 day RM group across the two sites in 2008. Previous recommended hybrids, 34A89 from Pioneer and HL S067 from Hyland, continued to have much-above average silage yields in 2008. Also, new hybrids N64Z-CB/LL/RW, an NK brand, which also had above-average milk/ton values, TA607-20 from T.A. Seeds, and 660BVR from Doebler's had much above-average silage yields across both sites.

A new hybrid, DKC61-69, a DEKALB brand, had a much above-average silage yield and above-average milk/ton value in the 111-115 day RM group in 2008. New hybrids, 6277VT3 from GROWMARK FS and 33F88 from Pioneer, which also had an above-average milk/ton value, had above-average silage yields. The new hybrid TMF2Q716 from Mycogen had above-average silage yields, whereas new hybrids 57V40 from Dyna-Gro Seed and 83L65CB/LL/RW from Garst had above-average milk/ton values. The new hybrid DKC67-87, a DEKALB brand, and the previously recommended

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Table 1. Recommended 95-115-day corn silage hybrids in New York based on tests in Cayuga Co. (Aurora Research Farm) and Livingston Co. (Southview Farms).

| Brand/Co. | Hybrid | Comparative Silage Yield | Comparative Milk/Ton | Comp. Milk Yield | Years in Test |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|----------------------|------------------|---------------|
| -----%----- | | | | | no. |
| 95-100 day Relative Maturity | | | | | |
| Garst | 88C97CB/LL | 110 | 99 | 109 | 1 |
| Dyna-Gro Seed | 54T42 | 110 | 99 | 109 | 2 |
| Dairyland Seed | HiD.F.-3000-6 | 110 | 99 | 109 | 1 |
| GROWMARK FS | 5057VT3 | 110 | 98 | 108 | 1 |
| LICA | 1900F/RR/HX | 108 | 98 | 105 | 1 |
| LICA | 946 LRR | 102 | 101 | 104 | 3 |
| Growmark FS | 4888 | 101 | 101 | 102 | 1 |
| NK | N39Q-CB/LL/RW | 103 | 99 | 101 | 1 |
| LICA | 99 S7 | 103 | 98 | 101 | 2 |
| 101-105 day Relative Maturity | | | | | |
| T.A. Seeds | TA557-00F | 108 | 101 | 109 | 5 |
| LICA | 1056 SRR | 111 | 98 | 108 | 1 |
| Hyland | HL B337 | 108 | 100 | 108 | 1 |
| Doebler's | 552GR | 102 | 103 | 105 | 1 |
| Hyland | HL SVT50 | 107 | 98 | 105 | 1 |
| Hyland | HL SR59 | 104 | 98 | 101 | 1 |
| 106-110 day Relative Maturity | | | | | |
| HYTEST SEEDS | HTS62-01CR | 109 | 100 | 110 | 1 |
| Pioneer | 34A89 | 108 | 100 | 107 | 4 |
| Hyland | HL S067 | 107 | 100 | 107 | 8 |
| NK | 64Z-CB/LL/RW | 105 | 102 | 106 | 1 |
| T.A. Seeds | TA607-20 | 107 | 99 | 106 | 1 |
| Doebler's | 660BVR | 105 | 99 | 104 | 1 |
| 111-115 day Relative Maturity | | | | | |
| DEKALB | DKC61-69 | 105 | 102 | 107 | 1 |
| T.A. Seeds | TA689-00F | 109 | 99 | 106 | 3 |
| GROWMARK FS | 6277VT3 | 104 | 100 | 105 | 1 |
| Pioneer | 33F88 | 103 | 101 | 105 | 1 |
| DEKALB | DKC67-87 | 107 | 97 | 104 | 1 |
| Dyna-Gro Seed | 57V40 | 100 | 102 | 102 | 1 |
| Mycogen | TMF2Q716 | 102 | 99 | 102 | 1 |
| Garst | 83L65CB/LL/RW | 98 | 102 | 101 | 1 |
| Fielder's Choice | NG6793 | 100 | 101 | 101 | 1 |

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Table 2. Recommended 80-100-day corn silage hybrids in Northern NY based on tests in St. Lawrence Co. (Greenwood Farms) and Jefferson Co. (Ron Robbins Farm in 2008).

| Brand | Hybrid | Comparative Silage Yield | Comparative Milk/Ton | Comp. Milk Yield | Years in Test |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|----------------------|------------------|---------------|
| -----%----- | | | | | no. |
| 80-85 day Relative Maturity | | | | | |
| T.A. Seeds | TA290-19 | 107 | 103 | 110 | 1 |
| T.A. Seeds | TA240-00 | 106 | 102 | 108 | 1 |
| 86-90 day Relative Maturity | | | | | |
| Hyland | HL SR35 | 107 | 100 | 107 | 2 |
| Pioneer | 38N87 | 101 | 101 | 101 | 2 |
| 91-95 day Relative Maturity | | | | | |
| Hyland | HL B294 | 119 | 101 | 121 | 1 |
| Mycogen | TMF2N422 | 113 | 103 | 116 | 2 |
| LICA | 946 LRR | 109 | 101 | 110 | 3 |
| LICA | 1900F/RR/HX | 112 | 98 | 110 | 1 |
| Mycogen | TMF2L416 | 107 | 101 | 108 | 2 |
| Hyland | HL S047 | 102 | 101 | 103 | 1 |
| DEKALB | DKC45-79 | 102 | 99 | 101 | 1 |
| 96-100 day Relative Maturity | | | | | |
| DEKALB | DKC50-44 | 106 | 102 | 107 | 1 |
| LICA | 99 S7 | 108 | 100 | 107 | 2 |
| T.A. Seeds | TA476-11 | 104 | 97 | 101 | 1 |
| Pioneer | 36Y26 | 100 | 101 | 101 | 1 |
| Fielder's Choice | NG6520 | 101 | 100 | 101 | 1 |

TA689-00F from T.A. Seeds had the highest silage yields in the 111-115 day RM group when averaged across the two sites.

Northern NY (Table 2)

Two new hybrids from T.A. Seeds, TA290-19 and TA240-00, yielded exceptionally well in the 80-85 day RM group at both sites in 2008. Also, both hybrids had above-average milk/ton values at both sites. A new hybrid, HL SR35 from Hyland yielded exceptionally well in the 86-90 day RM in 2008. Also, 38N87 from Pioneer yielded well at Sackets Harbor in 2008.

Two new hybrids dominated the 91-95 day RM group in 2008 with HL B294 from Hyland and 1900F/RR/HX from LICA having much-above average silage yields in 2008. Previously recommended hybrids, TMF2N422 and TMF2L416 from Mycogen, and 946 LRR from LICA, also had much above-

average silage yields in 2008. In addition, all three of the previously recommended hybrids continued to have above-average milk/ton values. New hybrids HL S047 from Hyland and DKC45-49, a DEKALB brand, also had above-average silage yields.

A new hybrid, DKC50-44, DEKALB brand, had an above average silage yield and milk/ton value in the 96-100 day RM group in 2008. The previously recommended hybrid, 99-S7 from LICA once again had much-above silage yield. Also, the new hybrid TA476-11 from T.A. Seeds had above-average silage yield, whereas the new hybrid 36Y26 from Pioneer had an above-average milk/ton value across sites in 2008.

Conclusion

Hybrid selection is one of the most important management practices that affect corn silage yield and quality. With high grain corn prices, hybrid selection for corn silage has increased in importance. We urge seed companies to enter their hybrids in our corn silage hybrid testing program so New York dairy producers can make informed decisions, based on tests under NY environmental conditions. You can access the detailed 2008 Corn Silage Hybrid Report at our Web site, <http://css.cals.cornell.edu/cals/css/extension/publications.cfm>