

2007
September



UW — EXTENSION — LANGLADE COUNTY

Langlade Ag-Letter

Drought Stressed Corn & Silage

The real measure of corn silage quality is really a question of stover vs. grain not necessarily the affect of any “stressed” state of the crop.

For example, many would assume that a drought stressed crop would test high in fiber low in starch. But in a sample of 16 corn samples statewide during a previous drought, most fell in the normal ranges of NDF and starch and the samples that fell outside of norms were lower in NDF and higher in starch, the exact opposite. This likely comes from a short stalk but decent grain yields.

This year we have a mix of everything. From short stalks and nice ears to tall dry stalks with no ears. Wherever you are on this continuum, if the field is slated for corn silage, your number one concern for a quality feed is moisture.

In some areas, we have a dry down issue with the number of heat units accumulated and lack of soil moisture.

In severe areas, dry matter variation may

Horizontal bunker	70 - 65
Silage bag	70 - 60
Upright concrete stave	65 - 60
Upright oxygen limiting	60 - 50

become an issue at feed out.

Target harvest moisture depends on storage method. In average years, monitoring the corn crop moisture for storage in bunkers and bags should start at 20% progression of milk line from the crown of kernel, while uprights in an average year should start at 40% progression of milk line.

Corn moisture is best tested with chopped forage run through a Koster tester. We are offering one burn down on September 5th. Another will be scheduled based on results (see p. 4)

Normal whole plant dry down is about 0.5% per day, but up to 1% per day in hot dry weather. When grain is poorly filled, dry

down will be more rapid than 1% per day. For grain, dry down is about 0.75% per day from 30 to 25% moisture and only 0.25% when grain moisture falls below 25%.

Testing for fiber and starch testing become more essential with unusual crop conditions at harvest, because one can't predict this from the farm desk, pick up truck, or from a book value.

When forage testing corn silage and haylage, the NIR equations give a good indication for dry matter, protein and NDF. For alternative forages such as those containing more grasses, peas and oats, triticale, wet chemistry is a good method for determining fiber digestibility or starch content.

For a mineral basis of the forage always use the wet chemistry method, especially for potassium levels in dry cow feed.

Corn Silage Burn Down Day - Sept. 5

Sponsored by: UW Extension & Farmers Elevator
At Maly FarmsSee page 4

Inside this issue:

FTD Ag Innovations	2
Computer CleanSweep	2
Farm Tech Days	3
Dairy Market Website	3
Manure Spill Demo	4
Corn Silage Dry Down	4

September 5th

Manure Spill Response Demonstration 12:30-2:30
Corn Silage Burn Down Day: Sampling 10:00-3:30
See page 4.

September 18-20

Farm Technology Days
See page 3.