PennState Extension

Tool Name

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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), Chris Canale (Cargill), Dayton Spackman (PSU Plant Science), and James Breining (PSU Plant Science).

Acknowledgement of Risk:

2020
Penn State/PDMP Corn Silage Hybrid Performance Trial Results

Prepared by Alex Hristov (PSU Animal Sciences), Chris Canale (Cargill), Dayton Spackman(PSU Plant Science), and James Breining (PSU Plant Science).

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

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

Site:		Rock Springs, PA
Cooperator		PSU Agronomy Farm
Planting Date		May 26, 2020
Soil Type		
Herbicides	**pre-**	Roundup + Sharpen
	post-	Status + Realm Q
Previous Crop		Soybeans
Tillage		none
Starter Fertilizer		15 gal/A UAN
Insecticide		none
Manure		
Fertilizer		10-60-100 mix and 300lbs/a Urea w/Agrotain all broadcast pre plant
Harvest Date		September 15, 2020
Field Summary:		We planted this site on May26. Emergence was good but weed control was lacking early on. A herbicide rescue was successfully made on July 8. By that time, we were beginning to see some drought stress. A few small rain events provided very little relief. We felt the field was uniformly affected and usable data could be obtained. The G0-1 trial was harvested on September 11. After reviewing the harvest data, we decided to drop rep 3 from the G0-1 trial and use rep's 1 and 2.

Weather Summary:

Month	Precip.	GDD
May 26th-June 1st		101
June 1st-July 1st		548
July 1st- August 1st		792
August 1st - September 15th		922
Seasonal Total		**2363**

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

Penn State/PDMP Corn Silage Hybrid Testing Program 2020

Early - Medium maturity (85-105) day RM silage hybrids in Rock Springs, PA

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

Notes: SEE BACKGROUND TAB

Cooperator: PSU Agronomy Farm

						NIRS[3]							Wet Chemistry					
Brand	Hybrid	Traits[1]	Relative Maturity	Pop. Plants/ac	Dry Matter %[2]	Crude Protein %DM	aNDFom %DM[4]	Lignin %DM	uNDF 240 %DM	Ash %DM	Starch %DM	TFA %DM[5]	NDFD 30 %NDF[6]	IVSD %Starch[7]	Yield tons/ac[8]	OM Yield tons/ac[9]	OMD %[10]	DOM Yield tons/ac[11]
Very Early (85-95 day) RM Silage Hybrids																		
Blue River Organic	30K84	conv.	90	33,819	42.8	8.5	35.0	2.7	10.7	3.0	40.6	3.3	60.9	54.4	12.9	5.4	54.7	2.9
Blue River Organic	33ND10	conv.	92	32,000	43.1	8.1	38.1	2.7	9.4	2.7	36.6	3.4	60.9	55.7	14.8	6.2	55.4	3.4
Chemgro	5295RDP	31	92	30,750	43.2	8.3	37.7	2.9	10.0	2.9	38.3	3.0	61.6	57.5	10.3	4.3	56.5	2.4
Growmark FS	FS 4303X RIB	34	93	34,000	45.0	7.5	35.7	2.6	11.7	2.4	42.0	2.5	57.1	59.4	12.3	5.5	55.2	3.0
Seed Consultants	SCS 951AM	36	95	34,000	45.5	7.4	32.6	2.3	9.4	2.4	46.6	2.6	60.1	56.7	15.9	7.0	55.4	3.9
Local Seeds	ZS9598 5222EZ	11	95	34,000	46.0	8.3	34.6	3.1	11.4	2.7	43.0	3.2	53.9	55.8	15.4	6.9	52.8	3.7
Blue River Organic	33A16	conv.	92	32,750	46.0	8.4	38.9	3.2	12.5	2.2	37.9	2.9	55.6	55.0	9.9	4.5	53.2	2.4
Mid-Atlantic	MA5952VIP3220	8	95	32,000	46.4	8.0	37.4	2.8	11.4	2.6	38.0	3.2	58.7	60.6	13.9	6.3	56.2	3.5
Channel	195-85DGVT2PRIB	31	95	34,000	47.8	7.2	34.0	2.9	11.9	2.1	44.6	3.1	57.6	55.2	15.4	7.2	53.6	3.9
Syngenta	NK9535-3220	8	95	33,250	47.8	7.3	31.4	2.7	11.8	2.6	46.4	3.4	54.0	59.1	17.9	8.3	53.9	4.5
Pioneer	P9377AMXT	27	93	34,000	47.9	7.9	35.1	3.0	13.1	2.5	44.1	2.3	56.0	56.4	16.0	7.4	53.9	4.0
Dekalb	DKC45-07RIB	34	95	32,747	48.6	8.3	35.9	3.0	12.2	2.9	42.2	2.8	54.7	54.9	15.0	7.1	52.9	3.8
Growmark FS	FS 4095X RIB	34	90	34,000	48.9	8.1	36.3	3.1	11.6	2.7	41.5	2.8	55.2	52.5	15.0	7.1	51.9	3.7
Local Seeds	LCX86-20 5222EZ	11	86	34,000	49.5	8.7	37.9	3.0	10.9	2.4	39.6	3.0	58.0	54.7	9.5	4.6	54.5	2.5
Hubner	H6053RCSS	34	87	34,000	50.0	8.1	36.8	3.2	11.9	2.5	41.8	2.8	53.1	58.8	12.9	6.3	53.9	3.4
LG Seeds	LG44C27VT2RIB	31	94	34,000	50.3	7.5	39.3	3.1	12.5	2.8	39.4	2.7	59.1	51.0	15.7	7.7	53.1	4.1
Seed Consultants	SCS 901Q	36	90	34,000	50.9	7.8	36.1	2.9	12.1	2.4	42.8	3.0	58.2	54.9	10.0	5.0	54.4	2.7
Local Seeds	LCX91-20 VT2PRIB	31	91	34,000	54.2	8.4	35.2	3.1	12.6	2.7	43.1	2.7	54.4	57.3	13.1	6.9	53.8	3.7
Kings Agriseeds	RT 45T04	4	95	32,500	54.8	7.9	34.4	2.8	10.5	2.3	45.0	2.8	56.0	61.0	12.8	6.8	56.2	3.9
Seed Consultants	SCS 931Q	21	93	32,500	58.5	8.2	31.7	2.8	10.0	2.7	48.1	3.1	54.0	56.9	15.4	8.8	54.1	4.8
			85-95 day means		***48.3***	***8.0***	***35.7***	***2.9***	***11.4***	***2.6***	***42.1***	***2.9***	***56.9***	***56.4***	***13.7***	***6.5***	***54.3***	***3.5***
Medium-Early (96-105 day) RM Silage Hybrids																		
Hubner	H6172RCSS	34	98	34,000	39.7	7.7	41.0	3.2	14.0	2.5	35.0	2.3	57.1	60.6	14.5	5.6	55.2	3.1
Growmark FS	FS 5090X RIB	34	100	30,500	40.1	8.1	35.6	2.8	12.4	2.9	38.5	3.0	58.5	59.0	13.8	5.4	54.8	3.0
Blue River Organic	42C87	conv.	98	33,250	40.8	7.9	35.5	2.7	11.5	3.0	39.3	3.0	58.6	55.5	12.1	4.8	53.6	2.6
Mid-Atlantic	MA7002HDRR	RR	100	34,000	40.9	8.0	37.7	2.9	12.2	2.4	39.0	2.4	56.0	58.4	14.3	5.7	54.6	3.2
Agrigold	A6267STXRIB	34	102	34,000	41.3	7.9	34.5	2.9	11.5	2.8	40.4	3.1	55.7	56.2	16.2	6.5	52.7	3.4
Local Seeds	LC9888 VT2PRIB	31	98	33,500	42.4	8.2	37.9	3.0	12.7	2.8	38.5	3.1	58.0	56.3	12.3	5.1	54.5	2.8
Mid-Atlantic	MA8017VT2P	31	101	34,000	42.5	6.9	33.2	2.6	10.9	2.6	43.2	2.9	59.8	55.8	19.4	8.0	53.8	4.3
LG Seeds	LG5505VT2RIB	31	100	32,500	43.0	7.9	35.1	2.7	10.8	2.5	41.8	3.0	58.9	61.9	13.7	5.8	56.9	3.3
Growmark FS	FS 53R85SS	34	103	33,250	43.0	7.7	32.5	2.7	11.3	2.6	43.1	3.0	57.9	60.8	15.3	6.4	55.3	3.5
Chemgro	6295RDP	31	102	33,250	44.0	7.1	36.3	2.8	11.1	2.7	40.2	2.9	59.8	60.6	15.0	6.4	56.3	3.6
Mid-Atlantic	MA8008VT2P	31	100	34,000	44.1	7.1	37.9	3.1	11.4	2.4	40.1	2.9	55.7	54.5	14.0	6.0	52.5	3.2
Local Seeds	LCX03-20 5222EZ	11	103	34,000	44.4	7.6	39.7	3.2	13.5	2.6	38.3	2.7	55.3	59.8	13.1	5.6	54.8	3.1
Growmark FS	FS 5101X RIB	34	101	34,000	45.8	7.6	37.6	2.7	12.0	2.4	41.6	2.6	58.3	52.6	15.5	6.9	53.5	3.7
Pioneer	P0031AMXT	27	103	31,750	46.9	7.2	36.2	3.1	14.2	2.5	41.3	2.8	55.0	48.4	14.6	6.7	49.5	3.3
Seed Consultants	SCS 981SX	34	98	34,000	47.5	7.6	41.0	3.2	12.9	2.6	38.2	2.8	55.4	52.3	14.2	6.5	52.6	3.4
Blue River Organic	48G35	conv.	102	33,250	48.5	8.4	35.2	2.6	10.0	3.0	42.9	3.0	60.0	58.5	14.6	6.9	56.7	3.9

Penn State/PDMP Corn Silage Hybrid Testing Program 2020

Early - Medium maturity (85-105) day RM silage hybrids in Rock Springs, PA

Notes: SEE BACKGROUND TAB

Cooperator: PSU Agronomy Farm

						NIRS[3]							Wet Chemistry					
Brand	Hybrid	Traits[1]	Relative Maturity	Pop. Plants/ac	Dry Matter %[2]	Crude Protein %DM	aNDFom %DM[4]	Lignin %DM	uNDF 240 %DM	Ash %DM	Starch %DM	TFA %DM[5]	NDFD 30 %NDF[6]	IVSD %Starch[7]	Yield tons/ac[8]	OM Yield tons/ac[9]	OMD %[10]	DOM Yield tons/ac[11]
Channel	199-60STXRIB	34	99	34,000	48.6	7.8	37.3	3.0	12.1	2.7	39.6	2.7	57.9	50.9	14.7	7.0	52.0	3.6
Dekalb	DKC47-55RIB	31	97	33,250	49.4	7.6	36.7	3.0	11.0	2.5	41.9	3.1	57.5	57.3	14.0	6.7	54.9	3.7
Hubner	H6134RCSS	34	96	33,250	49.5	8.3	34.5	2.6	9.0	2.5	43.4	3.1	60.5	52.8	15.3	7.4	54.3	4.0
Brevant Seeds	B97T04SXE	34	97	34,000	52.5	8.3	38.4	3.0	12.6	2.5	41.0	2.7	58.1	52.3	13.5	6.9	53.8	3.7
Mid-Atlantic	MA5024DC5222EZ	11	102	34,000	53.5	8.7	35.6	3.0	10.7	2.6	43.2	2.7	56.6	50.8	18.5	9.7	52.3	5.1
			96-105 day means		***45.1***	***7.8***	***36.6***	***2.9***	***11.8***	***2.6***	***40.5***	***2.8***	***57.6***	***56.0***	***14.7***	***6.5***	***54.0***	***3.5***
			Overall Mean		**46.7**	**7.9**	**36.2**	**2.9**	**11.6**	**2.6**	**41.3**	**2.9**	**57.3**	**56.2**	**14.2**	**6.5**	**54.1**	**3.5**
			LSD(0.1)		**7.1**	**0.8**	**NS**	**0.4**	**3.0**	**0.4**	**NS**	**NS**	**3.8**	**3.7**	**2.5**	**1.6**	**2.0**	**0.9**
			CV%		**9.0**	**5.9**	**6.0**	**8.1**	**15.3**	**8.7**	**7.8**	**11.6**	**4.0**	**3.9**	**10.3**	**14.7**	**2.2**	**14.7**

[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] **aNDFom**: aNDF on an ash-free basis.

[5] **TFA:** Total Fatty Acids.

[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] **NDFD30**: is analyzed by an in vitro wet chemistry method on samples ground through a 1-mm screen and incubated for 30 hours

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

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

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

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

NS = Not Significant

Prepared by Alex Hristov (PSU Animal Sciences), Chris Canale (Cargill), Dayton Spackman (PSU Plant Science), and James Breining (PSU Plant Science).

Table Key #	Trait Family Product	Bt protein(s)	Marketed for control of:	Resistance to a Bt protein in the trait package has developed in :	Herbicide tolerant?
Conv.	Conventional	None	None	---	No
RR2	Roundup Ready 2	None	None	---	GT
		Agrisure			
1	Agrisure GT	None	None	---	GT
2	Agrisure 3010 & 3010A	Cry1Ab	ECB SWCB	---	GT LL
3	Agrisure 3000 GT, 3011A	Cry1Ab, mCry3A	ECB SWCB RW	RW	GT LL
4	Agrisure Viptera 3110	Cry1Ab, Vip3A	BCW CEW ECB FAW SB SWCB TAW WBC	---	GT LL
5	Agrisure Viptera 3111	Cry1Ab, mCry3A, Vip3A	BCW CEW ECB FAW SB SWCB TAW WBC RW	RW	GT LL
6	Agrisure 3120 E-Z Refuge	Cry1Ab, Cry1F	BCW ECB FAW SB SWCB	FAW WBC	REFER TO BAG FOR SPECIFIC LETTER CODE: EZ0=GT ONLY EZ1= GT LL
7	Agrisure 3122 E-Z Refuge	Cry1Ab,Cry1F, mCry3A, Cry34/35Ab1	BCW ECB FAW SB SWCB RW	FAW WBC RW	
8	Agrisure Viptera 3220 E-Z Refuge	Cry1Ab, Cry1F, Vip3A	BCW CEW ECB FAW SB SWCB TAW WBC	---	
9	Agrisure Viptera 3330 E-Z Refuge	CryAb, Vip3A, Cry1A.105+CryAb2	BCW CEW ECB FAW SB SWCB TAW WBC	---	
10	Agrisure Duracade 5122 E-Z Refuge	Cry1Ab, Cry1F, mCry3A, eCry3.1Ab	BCW ECB FAW SB SWCB RW	FAW WBC RW	
11	Agrisure Duracade 5222 E-Z Refuge	Cry1Ab, Cry1F, Vip3A, mCry3A, eCry3.1Ab	BCW CEW ECB FAW SB SWCB TAW WBC RW	RW	
		Herculex			
12	Herculex 1 (HX1)	Cry1F	BCW ECB FAW SB SWCB	ECB FAW SWCB WBC	LL RR2 (most)
13	Herculex RW (HXRW)	Cry34/35Ab1	RW	RW	
14	Herculex XTRA (HXX)	Cry1F, Cry34/35Ab1	BCW ECB FAW SB SWCB RW	FAW SWCB WBC RW	
		Optimum			
15	TRIsect (CHR)	Cry1F, mCry3A	BCW ECB FAW SB SWCB RW	ECB FAW SWCB WBC RW	LL RR2
16	Intrasect (YHR)	Cry1F, Cry1Ab	BCW ECB FAW SB SWCB	FAW WBC	LL RR2
17	Intrasect TRIsect (CYHR)	Cry1Ab, Cry1F, mCry3A	BCW ECB FAW SB SWCB RW	FAW WBC RW	LL RR2
18	Leptra (VYHR)	Cry1F, Cry1Ab, Vip3A	BCW CEW ECB FAW SB SWCB TAW WBC	---	LL RR2
19	Intrasect Xtra (YXR)	Cry1F, Cry1Ab, Cry34/35Ab1	BCW ECB FAW SB SWCB RW	FAW WBC RW	LL RR2
20	Intrasect Xtreme (CYXR)	Cry1F, Cry1Ab, mCry3A, Cry34/35Ab1	BCW ECB FAW SB SWCB RW	FAW WBC RW	LL RR2
21	AcreMax (AM)	Cry1F, Cry1Ab	BCW ECB FAW SB SWCB	FAW WBC	LL RR2
22	AcreMax CRW (AMRW)	Cry34/35Ab1	RW	RW	LL RR2
23	AcreMax1 (AM1)	Cry1F, Cry34/35Ab1	BCW ECB FAW SB SWCB RW	FAW SWCB WBC RW	LL RR2
24	AcreMax Leptra (AML)	Cry1Ab, Cry1F, Vip3A	BCW ECB FAW SB SWCB TAW WBC *CEW*	---	LL RR2
25	AcreMax TRIsect (AMT)	Cry1F, Cry1Ab, mCry3A	BCW ECB FAW SB SWCB RW	FAW WBC RW	LL RR2
26	AcreMax Xtra (AMX)	Cry1F, Cry1Ab, Cry34/35Ab1	BCW ECB FAW SB SWCB RW	FAW WBC RW	LL RR2
27	AcreMax Xtreme (AMXT)	Cry1F, Cry1Ab, mCry3A, Cry34/35Ab1	BCW ECB FAW SB SWCB RW	FAW WBC RW	LL RR2
		Yieldgard/Genuity			
28	YieldGard CB (YGCB)	Cry1Ab	ECB SWCB	---	RR2
29	YieldGard VT Rootworm (YGRW)	Cry3Bb1	RW	RW	RR2
30	YieldGard VT Triple	Cry1Ab, Cry3Bb1	ECB SWCB RW	RW	RR2
31	VT Double PRO VT Double PRO RIB complete	Cry1A.105, Cry2Ab2	CEW ECB FAW SB SWCB	CEW	RR2
32	VT Triple PRO VT Triple PRO RIB complete	Cry1A.105, Cry2Ab2, Cry3Bb1	CEW ECB FAW SB SWCB RW	CEW RW	RR2
33	Trecepta (or RIB complete)	Cry1A.105, Cry2Ab2,Vip3A	BCW CEW ECB FAW SB SWCB TAW WBC	---	RR2
		Others			
34	Smartstax Smartstax Refuge Advanced Smartstax RIB Complete	Cry1A.105, Cry2Ab2, Cry1F, Cry3Bb1, Cry34/35Ab1	BCW CEW ECB FAW SB SWCB RW	CEW WBC RW	LL RR2
35	Powercore (or Refuge Advanced)	Cry1A.105, Cry2Ab2, Cry1F	BCW ECB FAW SB SWCB CEW	CEW WBC	LL RR2
36	QROME (Q)	Cry1Ab, Cry1F, mCry3A, Cry34/35Ab1	BCW ECB FAW SB SWCB	FAW WBC RW	LL RR2
	BCW = black cutworm	**SB** = stalk borer	**GT** = glyphosate tolerant		
	CEW = corn earworm	**SWCB** = southern corn borer	**LL** = Liberty Link, glufosinate tolerant		
	ECB = European corn borer	**TAW** = true armyworm	**RR2** = Roundup Ready 2, glyphosate tolerant		
	FAW = fall armyworm	**WBC** = western bean cutworm			
	RW = corn rootworm				

Source: https://www.texasinsects.org/bt-corn-trait-table.html

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.7.0; 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 in vitro digestibility determinations for NDF (NDFD30) and starch (IVSD; 4-hour, 1-mm grind). Once combined, these digestibility coefficients sum to predict OMD.

The OMD Index is calculated using the following equation: OMDI (%) = {[(crude protein – NDFCP) × 0.89] + (total fatty acids × 0.75) + (starch × IVSD ÷ 100) + [(aNDFom - lignin) × 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 NDFD30 is NDF digestibility at 30 h in vitro (by wet chemistry and sample ground through a 1-mm sieve) expressed as % of NDF.

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.