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|  | **Professional Dairy Managers of PA**  174 Crestview Drive  Bellefonte, PA 16823 Phone: 1-877-326-5993  Fax: 814-355-2452  Email: [info@pdmp.org](mailto:info@pdmp.org) |

February 28, 2024

*An invitation to seed industry professionals. . .*

The Professional Dairy Managers of Pennsylvania (PDMP) is soliciting entries for the 2024 corn silage hybrid trial. The collaborative effort of PDMP and The Pennsylvania State University provides leadership and producer-driven corn silage testing through innovative research. Further collaboration with Cornell University brings uniformity to the testing program and reporting of data in the northeast region.

PDMP and Penn State will collectively distribute the results in early November, as well as posting the results online. Information can be accessed at: <http://pdmp.org/testing-results> or <https://extension.psu.edu>. In addition, the results of the corn silage hybrid trial are presented as part of the PSU Dairy Nutrition Conference. This presentation encourages and allows for open dialogue between the PDMP Corn Silage Committee persons and industry representatives. We invite you to attend this conference, view the results, and join in on the discussion to further enhance this testing program.

The cost for each hybrid entered is $800. Conventional entries will be charged $300 (see info under “Planting” below). The maturity groups are listed on the protocol sheet and entry form. The testing protocol and directions for application are included.

No provision is made for reimbursement of application fees due to dropped test sites or late arriving seed entries. The deadline for submission of forms and entry fees is **March 15, 2024**. Seed must be submitted no later than **March 29, 2024**.

Contact Hanna Wells, Project Liaison, at [hwells517@gmail.com](mailto:hwells517@gmail.com) or 814-574-9863 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Hanna Wells

PDMP Project Liaison

2024 Corn Silage Hybrid Trials

PDMP / PSU Testing Protocols

**Hybrid maturity:** Entries will be grouped based upon four geographical regions. Hybrids will be separated and analyzed based on entered maturity date within each geographical region. The groups are as follows:

Early Maturity 85 – 94 RM and 95 – 103 RM

Mid Maturity 100 – 104 RM and 105 – 111 RM

Late Maturity 111 – 115 RM and 116 – 120 RM

Early Maturity

These hybrids will be evaluated at three locations in northern and central PA and will consist of 85 to 94 day and 95 to 103 day RM hybrids. These locations are Bradford, Centre, and Clinton Counties.

**Mid Maturity:**

These hybrids will be evaluated at three locations in central PA and will consist 100 to 104 day and 105 to 111 day RM hybrids. These locations are Blair(tentative for 2024), Centre, and Juniata Counties.  
  
**Late Maturity:**

These hybrids will be evaluated in three southern PA locations and will consist of 111 to 115 day RM and 116 to 120 day RM hybrids. These locations are Chester, Lancaster, and Juniata Counties.

**Locations:** Tests will be located on production dairy farm fields on PDMP cooperator farms located in Chester, Lancaster, and Juniata counties for the late-season hybrids. Mid-season hybrids will be evaluated in Blair, Centre, and Juniata counties. The early-season hybrids will be evaluated at locations in Bradford, Centre, and Clinton counties. Within a maturity zone, the same set of hybrids will be evaluated at each location. For 2024, no backup sites will be planted. All locations planted will be harvested unless there are unforeseen circumstances.

**Planting:** All hybrids will be replicated three times at each location. Plots will be planted in four row plots 17.5 feet long using a vacuum precision planter set to drop 34,000 seeds per acre. Trials planted into fields previously cropped to corn will have planter applied insecticide. Conventional entries will only be accepted at the Centre and Lancaster Locations. These locations cover all the maturity groups. All other entries must be glyphosate tolerant.

**Harvesting:** Harvesting will take place when the silage is near 65-70% in each maturity test. Samples will be sent to Dairyland Laboratories Inc. for quality analysis.

Data Reporting: Silage yields and dry matter concentrations at harvest will be reported for each location and averaged over all locations. Least significant differences and coefficients of variation will be reported for all variables. Forage quality traits will include: Dry Matter(%), Crude Protein(%DM), aNDFom(%DM), Lignin(%DM), uNDF240(%DM), Ash(%DM), Starch(%DM), Total Fatty Acids(%DM), NDFD30(%NDF by FDMS) and C18:2(%DM).

Data will be reported on the PDMP Corn Silage website at (http://www.pdmp.org) as well as the Department of Plant Sciences website at (https://extension.psu.edu/). Seed treatments and biotech traits will be reported with each entry.

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**CORN SILAGE HYBRID TRIALS CHECKLIST**

*No provision is made for reimbursement of application fees due to dropped test sites or  
 late arriving seed entries.*

*Application Directions:*

1. Complete application form:

Maturity Groups:

Early - Season 85 – 94 RM and 95 – 103 RM

Mid - Season 100 – 104 RM and 105 – 111 RM

Late - Season 111 – 115 RM and 116 – 120 RM

1. Submit Entry Form via email by March 15, 2024:

Entry fees are $800 per hybrid. $300 for conventionals at 1 location/zone

*Return entry form to Hanna Wells: hwells517@gmail.com*

Invoices will be sent out when entry list is finalized. An email invoice will be sent to email address listed on entry form. If the person filling out the form is different than the person handling invoicing, please include additional email in appropriate box.

Please make checks payable to “**PDMP**” to:

Hanna Wells

Attn: PDMP Corn Silage Project

174 Crestview Dr

Bellefonte, PA 16823

1. Mail seed by March 29, 2024 or sooner:

Send 4 lbs, medium round or medium flat seed via UPS, FedEx, etc, to:

Dayton Spackman

The Pennsylvania State University Phone: 814-863-7171

Rm 104 Ag Seed Bldg / Corn Breeding Lab Email: djs5487@psu.edu

Fox Hollow Road

University Park, PA 16802

Please contact Dayton if you plan to physically drop seed off.