



2024 SILAGE GUIDE

Presented by DEKALB® Brand

NEVERSETTLE

FROM START TO FINISH

Look to Season-Long Management Strategies for Quality Corn Silage.

It's no secret. Corn is a valuable commodity for beef and dairy producers alike. That's why doing all you can to manage the crop from start to finish can help maximize both the quality and quantity of the crop harvested.

From product selection to harvest and drought management strategies, navigating through a crop season can be challenging. Yet when met with proper planning and forethought, controlling those often-uncontrollable production factors can help yield a palatable, nutritious crop at feed out time.

CONTROL THE UNCONTROLLABLE

Getting Back to the Basics Forms the Foundation of a Successful Crop.

Whether it's too much rain at planting or too little moisture during the growing season, farmers know Mother Nature is both friend and foe. While the weather itself cannot be managed, they can, however, manage *for* the weather.

According to Joe Lawrence, dairy forage systems specialist with Cornell University's Pro Dairy program, farmers can position themselves to put the odds of the growing season in their favor.

"That really starts with identifying the relative maturities of corn products that are best suited for your area," Lawrence says.

Because corn has a narrow harvest window to achieve optimum plant stage for ideal silage, Lawrence says shorter season products can help provide farmers a better chance



to manage the harvest season.

Basic agronomic principles like field scouting and fertility management can also help positively impact crop quality and quantity. Lawrence adds that working with a trusted crop adviser or extension specialist might help farmers stay focused on those factors that can impact overall crop success.

"When a crop is lacking fertility, it's stressed out," Lawrence says. "But excess nitrogen is also known to delay maturity and dry down."

Matching nitrogen application to crop needs can help farmers stay focused on growing a healthy stand from start to finish. Proper crop scouting is also key to troubleshooting potential disease and pest issues before problems become more difficult to manage.

MANAGE FOR DROUGHT

Weathering Through Weather Woes for Optimum Silage.

When moisture throughout the growing season has been compromised, finding the sweet spot for starch content in the corn crop can become challenging.

"The milk line needs to be able to form so you get the needed starch that converts into sugars," says Wisconsin dairyman Hank Weisenbeck.

He adds dropping moisture content to 62% might give the kernel more opportunity for the milk line to form and increase starch content in the crop.

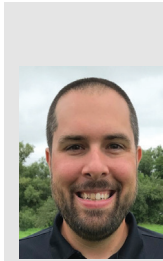


Monitoring nitrates in drought-stressed corn should also be top of mind when it comes to feed out time.



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While higher chopping height might help alleviate some nitrate issues in drought-stressed corn, Lawrence says if yield is already compromised, proper ensiling is especially key to capturing the most yield possible.

Fiber digestibility could also be compromised under drought conditions.

In fact, Lawrence says fiber digestibility is driven more by weather conditions than hybrid selection.

"Recognizing that allows you to then put more emphasis on the areas of management that you can actually make a difference in," Lawrence explains.

GOVERN THE HARVEST

Focus on Timing to Reap Maximum Crop Benefits.

For beef and dairy producers, a successful crop isn't fully achieved until high quality silage reaches the cow's mouth. That said, timing is everything once harvest time rolls around.

Lawrence recommends to try matter content between 33% and 37%.



Donnie Martin,
Pennsylvania
dairyman

Kernel maturity and moisture content are key for Weisenbeck and fellow Pennsylvania dairyman Donnie Martin.

"If you don't get good fermentation, you're going to have dry matter loss by the time it ferments and it's ready to feed out," Weisenbeck says.

According to University of California Cooperative Extension Dairy Farm Advisor and County Director Jennifer Heguy, give special consideration to particle length when corn silage is the major, or only, source of effective fiber in the ration.

"If corn silage is cut too short, it could affect rumen health and function in cows, whereas longer particles are easier for

animals to sort out of the total-mixed ration," Heguy explains.

Martin prefers a particle size of 1/2" to 5/8", which for him, aids in packing and is less likely to be sorted out by the cows at the feed bunk.

Still, flexibility and year-long planning are key to managing silage harvest. And for Martin, gaining information from industry resources and even neighbors can be beneficial to producing a successful silage crop.

"I'm gaining information all year and learning how to harvest it better," Martin says. "Talk to your neighbors. If you know what's working well for them, talk to them about it."



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—Jennifer Heguy, University of California Cooperative Extension Dairy Farm Advisor and County Director

FIND THE MATCH

DEKALB Silage Proven Products Offer Proven Performance Across Multiple Platforms.

Beef or dairy, region and environment, selecting the corn product that best fits the attributes of the farm is key. After all, a successful crop isn't achieved until that high quality product is consumed.

That said, finding a product that best helps achieve quality and quantity is the bottom line.

According to DEKALB Brand Manager Jamie Horton, achieving success in the field begins with first finding the right product for the farm.

With consistency built in its products across acres, in varying environmental conditions and soil types, the DEKALB Silage Proven portfolio offers exclusive genetics that have endured rigorous testing so farmers can feel confident in the silage potential of the crop.

"Traits are a key part of selection," Horton explains. "We are testing our Silage Proven products across a wide geography before launch. Our

local teams do a great job of characterizing those products locally and identifying what works in an area."

Remember, this year's final corn silage product is what will be fed until next year's silage harvest.

Plan and think teamwork.

"Work with your silage team to ensure your harvest management practices lead to a final product that fits into the goals of the overall feeding program," Heguy says.

With one shot to produce a corn silage that meets the farmer's feed needs, planning and monitoring the crop before, during and even after the growing season can allow for adjustments in silage quality at feed out.

As Lawrence concludes, "If we make sure we understand what we can and can't control, then it makes it a lot easier to avoid the pitfalls of spending resources on things that are uncontrollable."

ALWAYS READ AND FOLLOW PESTICIDE LABEL DIRECTIONS. Performance may vary, from location to location and from year to year, as local growing, soil and environmental conditions may vary. Growers should evaluate data from multiple locations and years whenever possible and should consider the impacts of these conditions on their growing environment.

The recommendations in this material are based upon trial observations and feedback received from a limited number of growers and growing environments. These recommendations should be considered as one reference point and should not be substituted for the professional opinion of agronomists, entomologists or other relevant experts evaluating specific conditions.

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TOP DEKALB® CORN SILAGE PRODUCTS FOR 2024



Silage Proven: Products classified as Silage Proven meet a high standard of nutritional value of milk per ton and milk per acre and percentage starch.

Rating Scale: 1 = Excellent, 9 = Poor

Value-Added Traits:
VT2PRIB = VT Double PRO® RIB Complete® corn blend;
SSRIB = SmartStax® RIB Complete® corn blend

Bayer is a member of Excellence Through Stewardship® (ETS). Bayer products are commercialized in accordance with ETS Product Launch Stewardship Guidance, and in compliance with Bayer's Policy for Commercialization of Biotechnology-Derived Plant Products in Commodity Crops. Commercialized products have been approved for import into key export markets with functioning regulatory systems. Any crop or material produced from this product can only be exported to, or used, processed or sold in countries where all necessary regulatory approvals have been granted. It is a violation of national and international law to move material containing biotech traits across boundaries into nations where import is not permitted. Growers should talk to their grain handler or product purchaser to confirm their buying position for this product. Excellence Through Stewardship® is a registered trademark of Excellence Through Stewardship.

ALWAYS READ AND FOLLOW PESTICIDE LABEL DIRECTIONS. Bt products may not be registered in all states. Check with your seed brand representative for the registration status in your state.

IMPORTANT IRM INFORMATION: RIB Complete® corn blend products do not require the planting of a structured refuge except in the Cotton-Growing Area where corn earworm is a significant pest. See the IRM/Grower Guide for additional information. Always read and follow IRM requirements.

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DEKALB® CORN SILAGE PRODUCTS	VALUE-ADDED TRAIT	SILAGE YIELD @ 65% MOISTURE		NDFD 30 HR	% OF STARCH	MILK PER TON	MILK PER ACRE	GDUS TO MID-POLLINATION	EMERGENCE	SEEDLING GROWTH	ROOT STRENGTH	STALK STRENGTH	PLANT HEIGHT	STAYGREEN
DKC26-40RIB BRAND BLEND	VT2PRIB	3		2	2	1	2	1045	3	2	2	2	Med Tall	2
DKC31-10RIB BRAND BLEND	VT2PRIB	3		3	2	2	2	1061	1	1	3	3	Med Tall	3
DKC43-75RIB BRAND BLEND	VT2PRIB	3		2	2	2	3	1215	2	3	2	2	Medium	3
DKC44-80RIB BRAND BLEND	VT2PRIB	2		2	2	2	2	1240	2	2	4	3	Med Tall	3
DKC45-07RIB BRAND BLEND	SSRIB	2		1	3	2	2	1195	3	3	3	3	Med Tall	2
DKC48-56RIB BRAND BLEND	SSRIB	2		2	3	2	2	1200	2	3	3	2	Med Tall	2
DKC51-25RIB BRAND BLEND	VT2PRIB	1		4	3	2	3	1300	3	3	3	3	Medium	3
DKC51-91RIB BRAND BLEND	SSRIB	2		1	2	2	2	1275	3	3	2	4	Medium	4
DKC52-18RIB BRAND BLEND	SSRIB	1		4	3	2	3	1285	3	3	3	2	Medium	2
DKC53-45RIB BRAND BLEND	SSRIB	2		1	2	2	2	1265	3	3	3	5	Medium	4
DKC53-94RIB BRAND BLEND NEW	SSRIB	2		1	2	2	1	1300	3	3	2	3	Med Tall	3
DKC54-38RIB BRAND BLEND	SSRIB	2		3	1	2	2	1300	1	2	2	2	Medium	3
DKC55-37RIB BRAND BLEND	SSRIB	3		3	3	2	2	1300	3	3	2	3	Med Tall	3
DKC55-53RIB BRAND BLEND	SSRIB	3		1	3	2	2	1330	3	2	3	3	Medium	2
DKC57-97RIB BRAND BLEND	SSRIB	2		3	2	3	2	1305	3	3	2	3	Tall	2
DKC58-34RIB BRAND BLEND	SSRIB	3		3	3	2	3	1330	4	3	2	2	Med Tall	2
DKC59-07RIB BRAND BLEND	SSRIB	2		1	2	2	1	1320	2	2	2	2	Med Tall	2
DKC61-80RIB BRAND BLEND	SSRIB	1		3	2	2	2	1365	2	2	3	3	Tall	3
DKC62-08RIB BRAND BLEND	SSRIB	3		3	3	3	3	1365	3	3	3	3	Medium	3
DKC63-57RIB BRAND BLEND	VT2PRIB	2		3	1	2	2	1330	3	2	3	3	Medium	2
DKC64-34RIB BRAND BLEND	SSRIB	2		2	2	2	2	1377	5	3	1	1	Med Tall	1
DKC64-44RIB BRAND BLEND	SSRIB	2		2	2	2	1	1350	3	3	3	3	Medium	2
DKC67-42RIB BRAND BLEND	SSRIB	2		3	3	3	2	1372	3	2	5	4	Med Tall	3
DKC67-66RIB BRAND BLEND	SSRIB	1		3	3	2	3	1370	2	2	3	2	Tall	2
DKC69-16RIB BRAND BLEND	SSRIB	3		3	3	2	3	1380	2	2	3	2	Med Tall	2
DKC69-98RIB BRAND BLEND	SSRIB	2		3	2	2	2	1400	3	3	3	3	Tall	2
DKC70-64RIB BRAND BLEND	SSRIB	1		3	3	3	2	1410	3	3	5	2	Tall	2
DKC70-94RIB BRAND BLEND NEW	SSRIB	2		3	2	2	2	1420	2	2	2	2	Med Tall	2

NEVER SETTLE



YIELD. FEED. SUCCEED.

Dairy producers like you seek innovation to optimize forage yield and milk production. That's why DEKALB® brand corn products are bred for excellent digestibility, nutrition and tonnage yield potential. Plus our Silage Proven products are developed in top dairy producing regions for outstanding local performance potential. Never Settle for anything less. [DEKALB.com/SILAGE](https://www.dekalb.com/SILAGE)



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