

Grower Files

Daryl Crubel (left) and Ryan Wehrle, FS crop specialist, *Bloomington, Wis.*



Producing top-quality feed

There are a lot of dairy cows in the southwest corner of Wisconsin, so that means there's a lot of corn chopped for silage. Daryl Crubel and his family rely on raising quality corn silage for their 167-head dairy herd in the Bloomington area.

They have been using the FS Seed Corn hybrids with DairySelect output traits on 15-inch rows for about three years and work closely with local FS crop specialist Ryan Wehrle. "He scouts the fields to know about problems we need to adjust to or spray for," says Crubel. "He gets around to enough different plots so that he gives us a heads-up on what is looking good and what's not. We want it to stay green and not get too dry before we get all the harvest. Digestibility is important as well."

Crubel's goal is about 10 tons of dry matter per acre, and he likes the yield results he gets from the FS Seed Corn DairySelect hybrids.

There are several things Crubel and Wehrle consider when deciding on what silage hybrid to choose. "One of the criteria when choosing what hybrid to plant is milk per ton out of the feed and NDF total digestibility. It's also important how it fits into the ration. We want it to be as efficient as possible," says Wehrle.

"A lot of other silage hybrids have a lot of stalk and leaf; we like to have some corn in there from the energy standpoint," says Crubel.

He says last year he had the FS Seed Corn DairySelect hybrid in one silo and another hybrid in the other. His nutritionist came out to test the silage, and the FS came back with a little more energy. "I'm pretty well pleased, and that's why we went this year with all the FS Seed Corn DairySelect hybrids," he says.