

CORN SILAGE AND YOU IN 1992



Summertime Blues – the cloudy, wet, cold summer of '92 kept us and the corn wondering if summer would ever come. Now that it's October, I think that we can safely stop anticipating summer's arrival and accept that it just didn't happen this year. We can, however, look forward to another exciting Bills football season. Let's just hope they don't "THREE -PEAT" to become the Broncos of the 90's.

The climatic conditions also took its toll on the corn. It was slow to mature and the wet field conditions may further delay harvest. We have received several reports of poor ear development from different areas of the state. In these instances, if the corn silage appears abnormal or atypical in any respect, request a wet chemistry analysis. This is very important. Until we begin analyzing the atypical samples, we won't now how well the NIR will analyze them. It will take about a month to determine if any adjustments need to be made to the existing calibration. Thus, we are looking at sometime after Thanksgiving.

The bottom line is, if the corn silage appears normal, a NIR analysis will work extremely well. If the corn silage is atypical, request we chemistry.

Please call us if you have any questions.

Cornzyme – Farmline, the distributor of Alfazyme and Grasszyme silage additives, has introduced a new product, Cornzyme, to Northeast dairy farmers. Like its cousins, Cornzyme is an enzyme product that acts on the fiber fraction of the forage. University research trials demonstrated reduced ADF and NDF levels (primarily NDF) and improved digestibility of Alfazyme treated vs. untreated haylages. It appears that Cornzyme will have similar effects.

Due to the enzymatic action and its effects on the fiber fraction, we had to develop a special calibration for Alfazyme treated haylages. It is reasonable to assume that the altered chemistry of Cornzyme treated corn silages will require a special NIR calibration also. Therefore, if you or one of your customers is using Cornzyme, be sure to request **Wet Chemistry** analyses only.

We will be evaluating the Cornzyme treated samples throughout the winter and spring. If conditions warrant, we will develop a Cornzyme NIR calibration for the next fall.

Happy Trails!

