IMPROVED BMR AGRONOMICS MEAN COMPETITIVE YIELDS AND MORE MILK

By Jon Erickson, Customer Agronomist, Mycogen Seeds

As seed sellers, we hear many questions about Silage-Specific™ BMR corn, ranging from yield to stress tolerance to the cost of seed compared with competitive products. However, we know the advantages of growing and feeding BMR to high-producing dairy cows, from both a health and economic standpoint. Dairymen recognize these advantages as well, especially in light of increasing feed costs, current milk pricing and improved animal performance from BMR corn silage.

HIGHLIGHTS

Mycogen® brand Silage-Specific™ BMR hybrids equal or outperform competitive products when it comes to yield and milk per ton of silage.

A BMR-based ration can deliver 5 pounds more milk per cow per day.

New fourth-generation BMR corn hybrids can provide high-quality corn silage and competitive yields in both ideal and tough growing environments.

DON'T FEAR MISGUIDED CLAIMS

Unfortunately, some growers are influenced by the fear of claims made by competitive salesmen that BMRs "don't yield," "don't handle stress well" or "don't return economically." Producers who successfully plant and feed Mycogen® brand Silage-Specific BMR hybrids know that these claims are misguided.

Let's take a look at the yield potential of the Mycogen brand Silage-Specific BMR hybrids, and review how these hybrids perform under stressful conditions when compared with competitive corn hybrids grown for silage.

COMPETITIVE YIELD COMPARISONS

A guidepost to successfully growing Mycogen brand BMR hybrids is to plant these hybrids on the best ground on the farm. We know that BMR hybrids yield competitively with elite corn hybrids grown for silage under these ideal conditions. For the most part, growers are able to follow these recommendations, but even the best farms have ground that may be limiting.

Questions sometimes arise as to how the new generation of Mycogen brand Silage-Specific BMRs handle moisture and heat stress, and how they compare with competitive products under less-than-ideal conditions. The past two years were stressful years in the Midwest, with widespread drought and high temperatures at key developmental stages. These conditions offered us a chance to see how BMRs reacted to these types of stress.

In Wisconsin silage plots in 2006, new fourth-generation BMR hybrids were grown with competitive corn hybrids in water- and heat-challenged environments. Fourth-generation BMR hybrids were able to compete against dual-purpose hybrids grown for silage in stressful years within the same plots. *(Table 1.)* Similar results were seen in Minnesota in 2006. *(Table 2.)*

TABLE 1: **MYCOGEN® BRAND BMR VS. PIONEER SILAGE HYBRIDS**

HYBRID	MATURITY	YIELD AT 65%	NDFd NIR	STARCH % NIR	MILK/TON	MILK/A NIR
Mycogen F2F631	110	14.8	70.6	29.5	4,117	21,254
Pioneer 34M93	108	14.5	66.4	28.2	3,957	20,137
Pioneer 34A16	109	15.4	62.1	28.9	3,815	20,496
Mycogen F2F485	98	13.5	68.2	27.3	3,635	17,188
Pioneer 38B84	97	11.2	60.5	19.2	3,328	13,069

(colors indicate similar maturities)

Results taken from a ministrip trial plot in Elk Mound, Wis.

TABLE 2: **MYCOGEN BRAND BMR VS. PIONEER SILAGE HYBRIDS**

HYBRID	MATURITY	YIELD TONS	$H_20\%$	dNDF	MILK/TON	MILK/A
Mycogen F2F444	102	14.5	71.7	69.8	3,862	19,775
Mycogen F2F566	105	16.7	73.0	68.4	3,820	22,315
Pioneer 35Y65	105	16.5	67.8	55.0	3,182	18,320

Results taken from a ministrip trial plot in Rice, Minn.

In these comparisons against a competitor that promotes feeding high levels of starch and basing performance on milk per acre, Mycogen brand BMR hybrids equaled, *or outperformed*, the competitive products. Not only did Mycogen® brand BMR hybrids eclipse the competitor in milk per acre, but milk per ton was highest for BMRs. Remember, these plots were under drought and heat stress during the 2006 growing season.

Of course, years and locations are different, and we may not always be faced with heat and moisture stress. Nationally, multiple-year (2005 to 2007) research and strip trial data, as well as on-farm experience, help provide a clear picture of what growers can expect of Mycogen brand BMR corn hybrids over several years and environments.

An analysis of more than 1,700 strip trial plots shows that BMR hybrids yielded 18.9 tons per acre over all plot environments while competitive hybrids (including Mycogen brand TMFs) yielded 21 tons per acre.

TEN PERCENT HIGHER DIGESTIBILITY WITH BMR

Digestible fiber is another key advantage of Silage-Specific BMR hybrids with dNDF (NIR) percentages confirming a 10 percent advantage for BMR over grain-type hybrids. This will be the case in both stressful growing years as well as normal, or ideal, growing seasons. That can mean 5 pounds more milk per cow per day by feeding a BMR-based ration.

New fourth-generation Mycogen brand BMR corn hybrids can provide high-quality corn silage, along with competitive yields, in both ideal and tough growing environments.

For more information on how Silage-Specific™ BMR corn silage can have a positive impact on a dairy's bottom line, visit the Mycogen Seeds Web site at www.MYCOGEN.com or contact your local Mycogen Seeds representative.

Dow AgroSciences Mycogen® SEEDS

Silage-Specific™ CORN HYBRIDS

®™Mycogen, the Mycogen Logo and the Silage-Specific Logo are trademarks of Mycogen Corporation. ™"*Science. Yield. Success.*" is a trademark of Dow AgroSciences LLC ©2008 Mycogen Seeds. Mycogen Seeds is an affiliate of Dow AgroSciences LLC.
S47-701-449 (10/08) BR 010-12129 MYCOSILG8038