



IMPROVED BMR AGRONOMICS MEAN COMPETITIVE YIELDS AND MORE MILK

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As seed sellers, we hear many questions about Mycogen® brand Silage-Specific™ BMR corn, ranging from yield to stress tolerance to the cost of seed compared with competitive products. BMR corn silage has demonstrated clear advantages for feeding high-producing dairy cows, from both a health and an economic standpoint. Dairywomen recognize these advantages, 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.

The latest generation of Mycogen brand BMR 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 fear stemming from claims made by competitors 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 these claims are misguided.

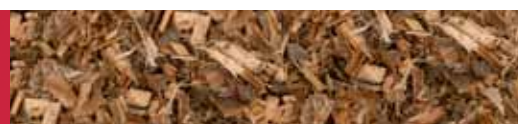
Let’s take a look at yield and quality performance of Mycogen brand Silage-Specific BMR hybrids and review how these hybrids perform compared with competitive corn hybrids grown for silage.

PERFORMANCE UNDER STRESS

Growers sometimes ask how the newest generations of Mycogen brand Silage-Specific BMR hybrids handle moisture and heat stress, and how they compare with competitive products under less-than-ideal conditions. Several stressful years in the Midwest, with widespread drought and high temperatures at key developmental stages, demonstrated how the latest generation of Mycogen brand BMR hybrids reacted to these types of stress.

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

In these comparisons of hybrids with similar maturities, 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 also they recorded the highest milk per ton. Remember, these plots were under drought and heat stress during the 2006 growing season.



FIVE-YEAR AVERAGES

Of course, years and locations are different, and growers may not always be faced with heat and moisture stress. Nationally, multiple-year 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 6,232 strip trial plots¹ in Table 2 shows that Mycogen brand BMR hybrids yield competitively with other hybrids — averaging 20.3 tons per acre over all plot environments while competitive hybrids yielded 22.4 tons per acre. This yield comparison doesn't take into account the advantages of higher fiber digestibility and milk production when feeding Mycogen brand BMR.

HIGHER DIGESTIBILITY WITH BMR

When comparing silage hybrids, it's important to keep in mind not only tonnage yield but also quality of the corn silage. Table 2 shows a 10 to 12 percent advantage in neutral detergent fiber digestibility (NDFD) percentages for Mycogen[®] brand BMR hybrids over dual purpose-type hybrids.¹ This NDFD advantage is consistent in stressful growing years as well as in normal, or ideal, growing seasons, and can mean 5 to 6 pounds more milk per cow per day by feeding a BMR-based ration.

TABLE 1: **SILAGE HYBRID PERFORMANCE UNDER STRESS (2006)**

HYBRID	MATURITY	YIELD AT 65% (tons/A)	NDFd NIR (%)	STARCH NIR (%)	MILK/TON	MILK/A NIR
110-day comparisons						
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
98-day comparison						
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. COMPETITORS (2007-11)**

YEAR	YIELD MYCOGEN [®] BMR (tons/A)	YIELD COMPETITOR (tons/A)	AVG. YIELD DIFFERENCE (tons/A)	NDFD MYCOGEN BMR (%)	NDFD COMPETITOR (%)	AVG. NDFD DIFFERENCE (%)	NO. OF TRIALS
2007	16.6	18.5	-1.9	68.9	58.1	+10.8	932
2008	19.8	21.7	-1.9	69.2	56.4	+12.8	820
2009	21.6	23.9	-2.2	70.2	57.6	+12.6	1,245
2010	20.4	22.7	-2.3	67.5	55.7	+11.8	1,343
2011	21.4	23.6	-2.1	66.8	54.6	+12.2	1,892
5-year avg.	20.3	22.4	-2.1	68.3	56.2	+12.1	6,232

Strip trial results from Mycogen Seeds internal field trial database

A guidepost to successfully growing Mycogen brand BMR hybrids is to plant these hybrids on the best ground on the farm. Under ideal conditions, Mycogen brand BMR hybrids yield competitively with elite, non-BMR corn hybrids and produce high-quality corn silage. However, when conditions are less than ideal, Mycogen brand BMR corn hybrids have shown continued production of high-quality corn silage with competitive yields in 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 website at www.mycogen.com or contact your local Mycogen Seeds representative.



¹Mycogen Seeds internal field trial database. Strip trials only. Mycogen brand BMRs versus competitors, average of five years data, 2007-2011.

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