

At What Moisture Should We Harvest Corn Silage?

The best lactation performance by dairy cows has been shown to occur when corn silage is harvested at 65-70% whole-plant moisture. This range of whole-plant moistures, also works well for achieving good packing and silage fermentation in horizontal silos.

If storing in up-right silos, plan to target whole plant moistures in the 62% to 65% range. Corn silage harvested at 60% moisture or less, consistently results in reduced fiber and starch digestibility.

Use 0.5% per day as an average dry down rate during the month of September. Depending on the year the average dry down rates for September range from 0.4% to 0.7% per day. However daily dry down rates during September can vary greatly from near 0% per day to as much as 1% per day.

Determining whole plant moisture prior to harvest is one management step to help ensure high quality corn silage.

Mark your calendars.



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SHEBOYGAN FALLS, WI

Corn Silage Dry Down Days 2017

(Let Moisture Be The Guide)



Wednesday, September 6
10:00 A.M.—2:00 P.M.

Country Visions Coop, Random Lake

Wednesday, September 13
10:00 A.M.—2:00 P.M.
Adell Coop, Adell

Wednesday, September 20
10:00 A.M.— 2:00 P.M.
Country Visions Coop, Random Lake

Wednesday, September 27
10:00 A.M.— 2:00 P.M.
Adell Coop, Adell

Sponsored by:
Adell Coop

Country Visions Coop
New Farm Technologies
Sheboygan County Forage
Council
Midwest Forage Association

**DATED
MATERIAL**

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Sheboygan, Ozaukee, and Washington Counties Corn Silage Growers are welcome and encouraged to bring whole corn plant samples to Adell Coop and/or Country Visions Coop for moisture determination.

Let whole plant moisture be your guide to harvest time.

Sampling Guidelines:

- Collect 3-5 stalks from a representative area within the field (cut at chopper height).
- Please include with your sample: name, address, phone number, hybrid, relative maturity and planting date. It is very helpful if you have samples already identified.
- Stalks will be chopped and analyzed for moisture using NIR.
- There is no charge for this program, but we ask that you



- bring a maximum of 3 samples per farm.
- Once samples are cut do not delay bringing them to the site so that moisture is not lost.
- To monitor corn silage moisture from Sheboygan, Ozaukee & Washington Counties or from around the state go to:

<http://sheboygan.uwex.edu/>

or

<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/ag/silagedrydown/>

For more information about the project contact Adell Coop at (920) 994-4125, Country Visions Coop at (920) 994-4316, or UW-Extension at (920) 459-5904.

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