Effect of Row Spacing on Corn Silage Yield and Quality. (A00-jahnke153039-Poster)

Authors:

• B.D.Jahnke - Univ. of Wisconsin - River Falls

Abstract:

The advantage of narrow row corn includes more consistent plant spacing, faster crop canopy closure, and possibly better weed control. There are, however, a few challenges as row spacing decreases. These include the cost of converting existing equipment or buying new equipment, the challenge of performing field operations once corn is emerged, and the shortage of narrow row equipment under the width of 30 inches. An anticipated yield increase is expected when reducing row spacing, but with it come some interesting questions. How much more silage can a grower get per acre? Does the increased yield outweigh the cost of new equipment? Is there a limit on how narrow rows can be before they affect yield? Taking this information into account, I decided to test three different row spacings: 30 inches, 15 inches, and 7 inch twin rows. Preliminary data taken shows quicker canopy closure on narrower rows, which may indeed decrease weed competition and increase moisture retention in times of drought. To make this cropping practice feasible, a grower must consider the costs weighed against the potential yield benefits. It is still too early to be certain, but my expectation is to see a substantial yield increase on narrower rows.

Corresponding Author Information:

Ben Jahnke Univ. of Wisconsin - River Falls 1024 E. Cascade Ave. River Falls, WI 54022

phone: 715-821-3156 e-mail:

Presentation Information:

Presentation Date: Monday, November 11, 2002 Presentation Time: 8:00-11:00 am Poster Board Number: 132

Keywords: