Yield and Quality of Grain and Silage from Open-pollinated Corn. (C03-kutka153348-Poster)

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Abstract:

A survey of open-pollinated (OP) corn was conducted in 2000. OP corn had crude protein levels (10.9%) higher than several hybrids (8.2%). Some OP corn also had higher levels of fat, but few other differences were observed. However, the protein differences would be enough to reduce pig ration costs by 9-10 dollars per ton through substitution of more OP corn for some soy meal. These observations require experimental verification. In New York in 2001 OP corn varieties were evaluated for grain yield (2 locations) and silage yield and quality (4 locations). OP corn grain yields were much lower than 4 hybrids (89 vs 166 bushels per acre) though the best yielding OP variety (Nokomis Gold) looked more favorable (117 bushels per acre). OP corn silage yields and estimated milk yields fell into the low end of the range of 36 hybrids with similar feed quality. The best yielding OP variety (Nokomis Gold) yielded 84% of the hybrid average for tons of silage and 85% of the hybrid average for milk per acre. It met or exceeded the results for 1-8 hybrid varieties at each location. Further evaluations of OP corn varieties under both organic and conventional management are underway.

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