Changes in Silage Moisture and Milkline Progression in Dual- and Leafy Maize. (C03-ma142936-Poster)

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Abstract:

Physiological characterization of dual-purpose and silage maize hybrids may lead to silage improvement. The objectives of this study were to monitor changes in silage moisture and milkline progression in dual-purpose and Leafy silage hybrids, and to establish quantitative relationships between kernel development stage, kernel moisture and silage moisture for the two types of hybrids. A field experiment was conducted for two years to compare two dual purpose hybrids to two Leafy silage-specific hybrids during the moisture decline / dry matter increase period. Our results showed that compared to dual purpose hybrids, Leafy silage hybrids had soft kernels and slow decline in whole plant moisture content so they provided producers with a larger window for harvest. Under severe dry conditions, kernel milkline did not correspond to silage moisture content in the same way as under wet conditions; moisture at 1/2 milkline, used for silage harvest timing, also varied with hybrid.

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