# Corn Silage Sampling - 2014

First sample per farm (per day) will be free, each additional sample will be $5.

## Thursday, September 11

*9 a.m. to 10 a.m.*
>Middle Inlet Town Hall - intersection of Marinette Cty. Hwy. X & Hwy 141.

*10:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.*
>Kuchta Farms' grain bin site on Marinette County Hwy M, 2.5 miles west of County W.

*12:30 pm to 1:30 pm*
>Curt Kohls' farm, just northwest of Gillett on Klaus Lake Road, just south of Town Hall Road, which is the first road off Hwy. 32 north of Gillett.

## Wednesday, September 17; Wedn., September 24; Thurs., October 2

*8:30 a.m. to 9:15 a.m.*
>Middle Inlet Town Hall - intersection of Marinette Cty. Hwy. X & Hwy 141.

*9:45 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.*
>Fendryk Farms, Cty Hwy. P and 25$^{th}$ Road, 2 miles west of Hwy. 141.  Use the 25$^{th}$ Road entrance to the farm (just south of Cty. P) for easiest access.

*11: a.m. to 12:15 p.m.*
>Kuchta Farms' grain bin site on Marinette County Hwy M, 2.5 miles west of County W.

*12:45 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.*
>Peterson Farms, 6336 Goatsville, 1.5 miles west of Hwy 141 (2 miles north of Lena).

*2:15 p.m. to 3 p.m.*
>Curt Kohls' farm, just northwest of Gillett on Klaus Lake Road, just south of Town Hall Road, which is the first road off Hwy. 32 north of Gillett.

## Wednesday, October 1

*As part of Beef Cow/calf Field Day - See flier elsewhere in newsletter.*
>Krans Farm - 2891 Florence Cty. Hwy. N.  Field Day starts at 1 p.m., if bringing corn silage samples, please bring between Noon and 1 p.m., or between 5 and 5:30 p.m.

## Thursday, October 9, & Thursday, October 16

*8:30 a.m. to 9:15 a.m.*
>Aurora Feed Mill (Stephenson Mktg.), on west edge of Aurora.

*10:15 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.*
>Middle Inlet Town Hall - Cty. Hwy. X & Hwy. 141.

*11 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.*
>Fendryk Farms, Cty Hwy. P and 25$^{th}$ Road, 2 miles west of Hwy. 141.  Use the 25$^{th}$ Road entrance.

*Noon to 12:45 p.m.*
>Kuchta Farms' grain bin site on Marinette County Hwy M, 2.5 miles west of County W.

*1:15 p.m. to 2 p.m.*
>Peterson Farms, 6336 Goatsville, 1.5 miles west of Hwy 141 (2 miles north of Lena).

*2:30 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.*
>Curt Kohls' farm, just northwest of Gillett on Klaus Lake Road, just south of Town Hall Road, which is the first road off Hwy. 32 north of Gillett.

**Collecting a Good Sample**

   Sample collection is very important to getting good test results. The first step to collecting a good sample is to think about all the different fields and/or varieties that you want tested. Each variety will mature and dry-down differently, and there are always differences from field to field, so plan on sampling most of the fields that you are thinking about ensiling this year. This year, the corn is more consistent than we have had in recent years, but there will still be variability within the field.

   When collecting the actual sample plants, collect your sample according to the variability in the field. If the field is pretty consistent, collect at least five plants in a W-shaped pattern from the area being sampled. If the field is variable, collect more plants and collect at least one or two from each size of plants found in the field. Wrap the plant stems in wet paper and bring all your separate samples to the collection site nearest you. If in doubt, collect a few more plants for each given sample, or collect more than one sample according to field variability, whether it be soil type, variety, or whatever else.

   Lastly, collect them as soon as possible before you leave for the collection site. Call Scott's cell phone at 715-923-0807 if you are running behind so that he can either wait for you or arrange a meeting point.

## Storage considerations for corn silage

High-quality corn silage can be produced in many different types of storage structures. However, each structure type - bunker silo, silage bag, upright silo, or silage pile - needs to have the corn silage at a certain range of whole-plant moisture to achieve the best possible results. The recommendation is to hit the following ranges:

| Silo Type | Recommended Moisture % |
| --- | --- |
| Upright | 60-65 |
| Upright, oxygen-limiting | 50-60 |
| Horizontal silos | 65-70 |
| Silage bags and piles | 60-70 |

   Generally, as kernel maturity goes, so goes the whole-plant moisture and forage quality characters. There are no certainties. With the extremely uneven growing conditions this year, these numbers are not going to be perfect. The current wet soil conditions may make some fields look wetter than they really are if the grain is actually maturing, but that is a big 'if' this year, as we struggle toward plant maturity. Basically, I'm trying to say that sampling and paying attention to field-to-field variability is going to be really important this year. That said, here are some good guidelines:

| Maturity stage | Moisture percent % | Dry Matter yield T/A | Crude Prot.% |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| early dent | 73 | 5.6 | 9.9 |
| 1/2 milkline | 66 | 6.3 | 9.2 |
| 3/4 milkline | 63 | 6.4 | 8.9 |
| no milkline | 60 | 6.3 | 8.4 |

**Packing Capacity** – When packing silage into a bunker silo, you must have enough packing weight to adequately handle the forage coming into the bunker. If you do not pack adequately, you will lose dry matter and forage quality. A quick rule-of-thumb is that you need about 800 lbs of weight per delivered wet ton per hour. For example, 80 tons delivered per hour requires 64,000 lbs of packing capacity. Stated Simply: Pack or Lose! If you do not take the time to pack correctly, you will have lost 2 to 5 times as much silage to spoilage as you should. So do your best by:

1. Use the heaviest tractors you can. Total weight has shown to be more important than per tire weight.
2. Unload the silage in thinner layers. This will allow each layer to be more properly packed.
3. If feasible, slow down your delivery rates. The single most important variable to final silage density in a significant study a couple years ago was delivery rate. If the rate was less than 60 ton/hour, the final density was sufficient, if more than that, the density decreased.
4. Harvest at the right moisture for your system. See above.