Feeding Value Of Drought-Damaged Corn Silage For Beef Cattle

Many producers may be considering the harvest of drought damaged corn for silage. If properly stored and harvested at the correct moisture level (35-40%) this product can be a nutritious high quality feedstuff. Drought damaged corn is probably wetter than it appears, so it is important to test the plant for moisture before storing for silage.

In many cases, the feeding value of drought damaged corn silage is at or near that of normal corn silage. Table 1 summarizes the results of feeding trials comparing normal and drought-stressed corn silage.

Table 1. Feeding Value of Drought Damaged Corn Silage

Description	Feeding Value (Estimated % of Normal Silage)
1. Stressed all summer, no ears, stunted	70-80
2. Severely stressed (5 to 20 bu. per acre grain yield)	80-90
3. Stressed only during pollination (3 1/2 bu. per acre grain yield; or moderate stress (40 to 60 bu. per acre grain yield)	90-100

References: Univ. of Nebraska Beef Report (1971 and 1976)
Michigan State Univ. Beef Report (1978)
Clemson Univ. Animal Science Report (1983)
Purdue Univ. Beef Report (1984)

Prepared by Dan Loy, extension livestock specialist, Iowa State University.
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