

Think Yield

The old adage "if you can't measure it, you can't manage it" has never been more true. Today, we have more tools than ever before to manage our crops with the yield information, and you may want to be able to take advantage of those tools sooner than you might think. The ideal is to have multiple-year geospatial yield information to use as a resource. Even if you don't have a yield monitor on your chopper, you can still begin measuring your yields.

A great reason to begin running Fields & Crops Manager is to have a place to store your yield information. We were very surprised by the number of farms that record their forage harvest—they just never had a place to put it.

Harvest Worksheet from the Fields and Crops Manager Software Program

Harvest Worksheet (Corn, dual purpose)							Crop Year: 2011	
Field	Location	Location Description	Plant Date	Variety	Planted Acres	Harvest Date	Loads	Notes
26			05/02/10	4759RR	5.8			
31			05/02/10	4759RR	4.1			
1		Near Road	11/10/10	4181RR	20.8			
behind bob's barbeque to the west enter from 238								
2B		Around Side	11/10/10	4181RR	3.0			
6		Behind Dad's	05/05/11	4759RR	20.9			
7			05/05/11	4759RR	5.8			

This worksheet is printed from Fields and Crops Manager and is meant to be kept in the chopper to make it easy for the operator to record the number of loads from each field. From this sheet, it is easy to key the number of loads with an average weight for each field.

Using your scales and frequently sampling for percent dry matter would be best, but absent the scales, you can use the table below to estimate the forage dry matter you are taking off each field.

Average Silage Dry Matter Density on Wagons Weighed at the University of Wisconsin Marshfield Ag Research Station

Forage	Cutting	Avg. Density (lbs. DM/ft ³)	SD (lbs. DM/ft ³)	Avg. Dry Matter (%)	SD (%)	Sample Size
Haylage	first	5.67	1.13	45.6	11.38	30
Haylage	second	5.00	0.97	47.0	6.71	119
Haylage	third	5.10	0.77	51.7	10.42	85
Haylage	forth	4.95	0.65	56.7	4.17	11
Corn Silage	--	5.05	0.87	34.4	5.57	151
Grass	all	4.55	0.61	43.5	11.00	7
Clover	all	5.48	0.95	48.3	9.98	38
Oatlage	--	4.99	0.65	36.6	9.54	45

Use this harvest information, along with previous years' information, with your crop consultant to begin working on next year's strategy. Begin with what you have, and then work towards acquiring a yield monitor.

Strongly consider a yield monitor for your next chopper. This information is much more valuable than just reinforcing where your fields need tile. Your geospatial harvest information, overlaid on field information, such as electroconductivity maps, is valuable for creating and evaluating subfield management sections, as well as adjusting your variable seed planting and fertilizer rates.

Increasingly, your crop consultants will be asking you for this information to help you enter your next phase of increasing yields.

Agricultural Management Resources Group Welcomes New Staff Member Specializing in Feedwatch Support

The Agricultural Management Resources (AMR) group at Dairy One is pleased to announce the addition of Kevin Streeter to the staff as an Applications Support Specialist. Kevin grew up on a custom heifer-raising operation in central New York and graduated from Cornell University in 2005 with a B.S. in Animal Science. While in school, Kevin worked as a herdsman and an AI technician.

Since graduation, Kevin worked as a nutritionist for a feed company in Vermont and for a veterinary school in the Caribbean. For the past two and a half years, Kevin worked as a nutritionist, and he is also part-owner of his family farm with 60 cows that are milked with a Lely Robotic Milker. He also raises heifers on his farm, with 200 head on feed.



As Applications Support Specialist for the AMR group, Kevin will be supporting Feedwatch, with a focus on feeding and feed management. He is currently traveling and meeting current Feedwatch customers. If you have any questions, please contact Kevin by phone at 800.496.3344, ext. 2188 or by e-mail at kevin.streeter@dairyone.com.

Students Visit Farm to Learn About Agriculture

On June 1, 2011, a group of 6th graders from Odessa Montour school district visited Bergen Farms in Odessa, New York. Representatives from Dairy One, DMS, CIDEA, Cornell, and the farm were on hand to describe their jobs, educational experience, and the relation of their jobs to agriculture. Students toured the farm and learned about the milking parlor and milk storage, nutrition, herd reproduction, veterinary services, manure handling and storage, soil sampling, machinery, and other components of running a large-scale dairy operation.



PREPAY NOW...SAVE LATER!

This is a great year to consider participating in Dairy One's prepay program. You can realize tax advantages, save money on your testing bill, and eliminate the inconvenience of paying on test day. Each year, Dairy One members of all herd sizes take advantage of this popular program. Look for information coming soon, or call 800-344-2697, ext 2159.