



Inside the
ZONE™



Fibre Digestibility + Corn Silage

The value of fibre digestibility is well known when it comes to making milk. Research has consistently proven that 1 point of NDFD translates to 0.25kg of milk production. The question is can we select a corn silage hybrid to support our high fibre digestibility goals?

Five plots throughout southern Manitoba were evaluated for fibre digestibility. Plants were cut at the same height and sent to the same lab for analysis of digestibility after tasseling had occurred. The goal is to evaluate trends across plots, including **scale of differences** between hybrids within the same plot.

	Kleefeld A	Kleefeld B	Kleefeld C	La Broquerie	Steinbach
P8859AM/Q	68.7	65.6		63.8	
P87040AM		68.4	66.9		62.3
P9233Q			65.9		58.3
P9482SXE			73.8	64.0	
NS932	66.6				54.2
HZ3172		68.5			56.7
HZ3434				58	
TH4386HDDR			63.2		

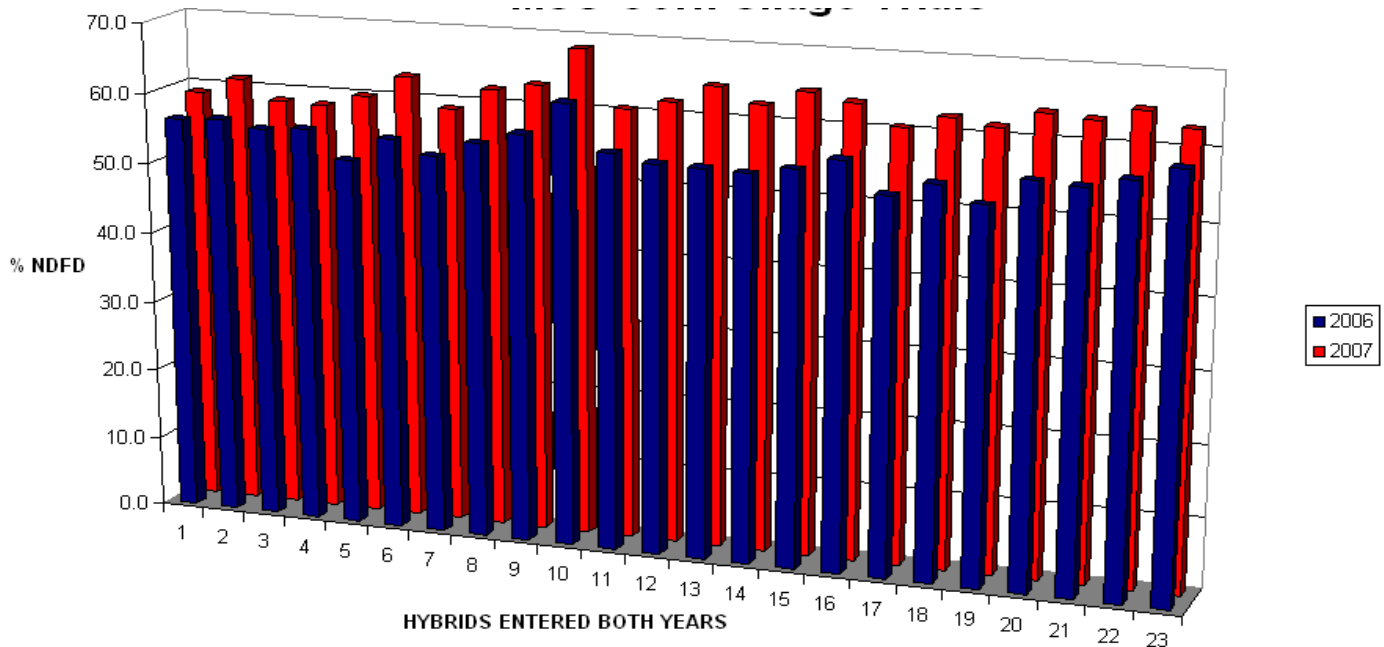
Note that these samples were collected before proper silage timing, meaning the NDFD30 numbers featured will not be the final result. However, the **differences** will remain the same.

There are no clear trends in most hybrids. The only clear advantage comparison that would bring a statistically significant difference to diets is the advantage of the **P9482SXE, a brown mid rib (BMR) corn.**

Location	Information
Kleefeld A	P8859Q is higher than NS932 by 2.1%
Kleefeld B	HZ3172 is higher than P87040AM by 0.1% and higher than P8859AM by 2.9%
Kleefeld C	In relation to TH4386, P87040AM is higher by 3.7%. P9233Q is higher by 2.7%, and P9482SXE is higher by 10.6%.
La Broquerie	In relation to HZ3434, P8859AM is higher by 5.8% and P9482SXE is higher by 6%.
Steinbach	P87040AM is higher than NS932 by 8.1% and higher than HZ3172 by 5.6%. P9233Q is higher than NS932 by 4.1% and higher than HZ3172 by 1.6%.
	*Please note that values above 4% are considered significant in the cow's digestibility.



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Work done in other areas of North America confirms that growing environment has a larger impact on final NDFD in corn silage than genetics, up to 3x more impactful. In the chart above we see work from Michigan State University where the same hybrid was grown in the same field over two separate years. The year in blue had above average moisture, while the year in red would be considered a drought year. Moisture difference alone accounted for a 6.5 NDFD% difference between the two growing years. This same concept can be applied to soil type and water holding capacity.

When looking for practical strategies to manage fibre digestibility, consider the following:

- Talking with your Pioneer rep to consider if **BMR corn** is a fit for your operation
- **Utilizing 11CFT inoculant** to capture additional fibre digestibility in the bunk
- Selecting hybrids with superior **late season plant health** to maintain quality to harvest.



For further information, please contact Marc Hutlet Seeds Ltd.
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