

WQS Silage Stover Evaluation

In 2007, WQS cycles 0 through 3 and testcrosses to two stiff stalk testers, LH244 and LH332, were planted in two row plots in three replications in two locations, Madison and Arlington, WI. Checks included were W604S x both stiff stalk testers, two *bm3* hybrids (Mycogen F697 and F2F633), a low digestibility check (WFIHISI C3), and a grain hybrid (Pioneer 34A20).

Trials were planted in Madison on 5/7 and in Arlington on 5/21. June and July were very dry in both locations followed by a rainy, wet August that contributed to significant lodging in both locations. Stover was harvested following manual removal of all ears. Plots were harvested at silage stage in Madison on 9/5 and on 9/13 in Arlington. Whole plant dry matter percent and yield were calculated (DM% average- 29.8%; DM Yield average- 4.4 Mg/ha).

Dried stover samples were ground for NIRS estimation and laboratory analysis of silage quality traits: neutral detergent fiber (NDF), acid detergent fiber (ADF), acid detergent lignin (ADL), *in vitro* true digestibility (IVTD), and *in vitro* NDF true digestibility (NDFD). Quality values reported are predicted from an internal calibration based on laboratory values from this study.

This study will be repeated in 2008.