

CORNER POST

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FORAGE
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FORAGE FIRST[®]
WHEN YIELD AND QUALITY MATTER[®]



Measuring Sorghum Qualities Vs. Corn

The challenges of Spring 2017 have many producers looking outside the box to produce quality silage for their livestock. Though there are many forage options within our industry, most require a drill to plant and multiple passes over the field for optimum harvest.

One exception to this is **forage sorghum**. A corn planter or drill can be used to plant this seed and when using the proper maturity, the producer can expect to harvest in a relatively short period. There has been much improvements with forage sorghums over the past couple of decades, including to improved standability with a leafier plant, improved digestibility with the BMR6 gene and improved tonnage, often outperforming corn.

95 BMR forage sorghum is the ideal choice for a dairy or feedlot producer looking for a product that can deliver superior silage quality using a one cut system.

- **BMR 6 gene:** low lignin technology for improved digestibility and feeding efficiency
- **Wide adaptation:** can be used in many soil types and production environments
- **Earlier maturity and disease resistance** combination allow this hybrid to be used across the USA (North to South)
- In Southern US: this hybrid **works great as a ratooning crop** (crop goes to full harvest and is allowed to regrow for an additional harvest)



One question we have been asked is **how does forage sorghum compare to the quality of corn silage?**

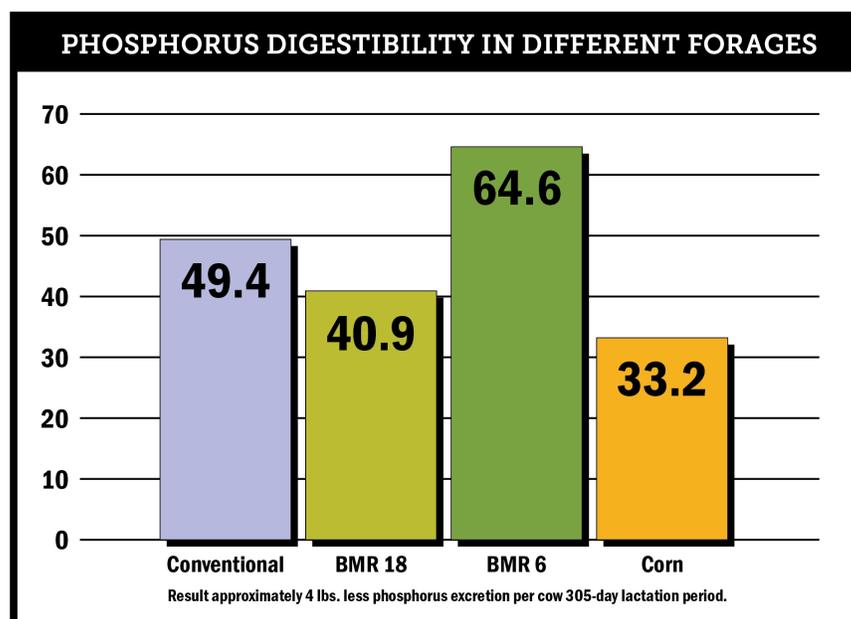
Quality Characteristics of Different Forages					
Forage Type	Forage Quality Parameters				
	CP%	ADF%	NDF%	LIGNIN%	IVTD%
Conventional Forage Sorghum	8.3	29.9	49.1	4.4	75.5
Brown Midrib 6 Forage Sorghum	9.2	27.6	45.9	3.6	81.3
Corn	9.0	23.9	41.2	3.5	82.7

Bean, et al. 2001. Texas Cooperative Extension

When managed properly, the 95 BMR will not only provide the necessary tonnage, but also provide a quality feed that rivals quality corn silage. Many producers have relied on the high digestible fiber of the 95 BMR BD to maintain or even improve the meat or milk production of their herd. Due to the high digestibility, it is recommended to increase the cut length to ¾" to 1 ¼" to slow down the passage through the rumen.

Effects of Different Forage Sources on Dairy Cow Performance				
Forage Type	DMI lbs/day	Milk Production lbs/day	Milk Fat %	Milk Protein %
Conventional Sorghum	51.04	68.20	3.57	2.89
BMR 18 Sorghum	51.98	70.84	3.77	2.98
Corn	53.46	74.36	3.88	2.97
BMR 6 Sorghum	55.44	75.02	3.89	2.89

Oliver, et al. 2004. Journal of Dairy Science



Learn more about 95 BMR BD Forage Sorghum

About The Corner Post

The Corner Post is a periodic email series with timely forage tips from the agronomic experts at Forage First and La Crosse Seed. If you have a question you'd like us to answer, contact us: info@laxseed.com or 800.356.7333

