

Seth Chappell – Bourdeau Bros

The forage quality from 2023 is significantly lower than "normal", 8 out of 10 herds are making at least 7% less milk volume, which directly impacts their milk checks.

Alot of farms are going to eat up alot of their forage "reserve", as most farms do not like to purchase forage and good quality forage really isn't available in our market. Some of my most hard hit farms are buying in 30-50% of their forage needs.

My best estimate and from doing alot of inventories yields are down on average 10-20% across the farms.

Quality on corn silage is significantly lower fiber digestibility is biggest problem, which is affecting milk per ton. Milk per ton running around 3200 in 2023 samples compared to averaging over 3500 normally.

Haylage RFV alot running 90-95, versus normal being in the 125-140 range.

Now that alot of farms are feeding 2023 forage we have ran more testing, mycotoxins more prevalent which is resulting in production, reproduction and animal health challenges as well as increased feed costs by adding binders in that cost in the \$0.20-\$0.26 per cow per day range.

Melissa Caribou – Cargill

3 to 5 percent unit reduction in corn silage fiber digestibility, which will relate to approximately a 4% reduction in forage inclusion in the diet. This additional concentrate on average will cost farms about \$.35 per cow per day.

A 3 to 5 percentage unit reduction in corn silage starch will require an additional one to 2 pounds of cornmeal. If we value cornmeal at \$235 a ton, this will contribute an additional \$.18 per cow per day of purchase feed cost.

The third cut should have occurred in early to mid-July but was pushed to August for most farms due to rain. Third cut is generally an important crop to feed to milk, cows, and the quality was compromised. Also, most farms missed an entire cutting due to the schedule getting pushed. It is hard to put an exact value on this, but I would say about one to 2 ton per acre less yield. Lower protein and higher fiber third cut will take about \$.15 per cow per day to correct with soy meal and other protein supplements.

Farms affected by flooding:

Many of my farms along the Lamoille and Winooski rivers lost significant corn acres, due to flood damage. Corn silage costs about \$70 per ton to purchase to replace lost yield.