

Tomalynn Farms

Paul Wight, PICKSEED Sales Manager Ontario



Tom, Brad, John, Ethel, Don, Bill

Don Burgomaster (sales agent in Peterborough County) and I are visiting with the Hawman Family, who operate Tomalynn Farms of Omeme, Ontario. Tomalynn Farms was honoured in April 2010 in St-Hyacinthe, Quebec with their first Holstein Master Breeder Award. PICKSEED wishes to extend our congratulations to Ethel and Bill Hawman and Tom & Debbie, Brad & Julia and their families on accomplishing this milestone. PICKSEED also extends our sincerest congratulations to all the recently announced Master Breeders. “The Master Breeder status is earned for all-round herd performance, conformation, reproduction and milk production. It is a 15 year process and fewer than 10 breeders receive the award each year in Ontario.” (The Peterborough Examiner March 5, 2010).

Ethel and Bill began their dairy operations in 1973, purchasing 150 acres near Omeme in Victoria County. There is a Pick connection to Ethel as she attended school in Richmond Hill with Martin Pick, Vice Chairman of PICKSEED.

Their 350 acres of crop ground consists of corn used for high moisture cobmeal and corn silage and 180 acres of hay used to make baleage and dry hay. Their stands are left in production for 4-5 years, other crops consist of barley, winter wheat for the straw and recently they are growing some soybeans.

Brad, tells me they soil test every 3-5 years depending on the crop and rotation, Brad has been a local Forage Master’s winner 4 out of the last 8 years in Victoria County. PICKSEED is a key sponsor along with Agri-Food Laboratories, the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association and the

Royal Winter Fair. Tomalynn Farms have been a loyal and long time client of PICKSEED. Bill and I shared some early memories of some of PICKSEED’s alfalfa’s like Vista, which Pickseed marketed some 25 years ago. Today the farm purchases some of our newest alfalfa varieties like PS2065MF and Leader Alfalfa; Their corn silage hybrid is ExTreme RR (silage-specific Leafy hybrid with Roundup Ready®) and all their haylage and silage is treated with PICKSEED’s Ensure or Enhance silage inoculants.

Earliest cow fame was Tomalynn Colleen Ultimate. a three time All Canadian nominee. This first cow was critical in getting their herd name out in the show world. Other excellent cows to carry the Tomalynn prefix include Astre Delight, Cousteau Dulcy and Gibson Sierra. Their late son, Alan’s 4-H project, Ned Diane, GP started the 8 generation Tomalynn cow family

that produced Leduc Della who was a three time All-Canadian reserve grand and reserve intermediate champion at the 2007 and 2006 Royal Winter Fairs. The family believe that is Alan’s legacy towards the farm achieving the Master Breeder award.

Like most farming families the Hawmans are very active in their local community. Children keep the families active; Brad and Julia’s children are Emma, Grace and

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How Much Corn Silage to Feed?

Jay Hackney

PICKSEED Vice President Research and Product Development

There is a trend towards feeding more corn silage in the dairy ration in some herds. The reasons behind this include high yield per acre of corn silage, winter survival/persistence issues with alfalfa based forage, consistent forage quality characteristics, ease of filling horizontal silos, high degradability of alfalfa protein. Mediating against the use of high proportions of corn silage in the ration are the cost of producing corn silage, possible need for more protein in the ration, difficulty maintaining good rumen pH and health, need for effective fibre, need for more supplemental Ca, Mg, K and S.

Alfalfa and corn silage complement each other very nicely as the weaknesses of one silage are balanced by the strengths of the other. This is shown in Table 1.

The U. S. Dairy Forage Research Center (Dhiman and Satter, 1997) compared lactation performance of cows fed on pure alfalfa silage, 1/3rd corn silage and 2/3rds corn silage. The results of the study are shown in Table 2.

The cows were fed a ratio of 50:50 concentrate to forage (alfalfa or alfalfa/corn silage) in the diet. The forage DM in the diet contained either all alfalfa silage, 2/3rd alfalfa silage:1/3rd corn silage, or 1/3rd alfalfa silage:2/3rd corn silage. The silages used in the trial were of good quality averaging 40% DM-19.5% CP-40% NDF and 36% DM-8% CP-45% NDF for the alfalfa silage and corn silage, respectively. Diets were formulated to equal concentrations of UIP (% of DM) (UIP= undegradable intake protein) and energy (Mcal NEI per lb. DM) by varying the proportions of high-moisture corn, soybean meal, roasted soybeans, and tallow.

These results show that lactation performance is very similar and relatively constant over the range of corn silage usage in the diet, with a slight advantage for the 1/3rd corn silage:2/3rds alfalfa silage ration.

Given the cost of producing corn silage versus producing high quality alfalfa-based silage, the economic advantage of reducing the corn silage component is clear.

There are a couple of important points to remember in relation to this study. One is that there was no attempt to maximize the use of forage in the ration and neither was NDFD

Table 1. Nutritional characteristics of good quality corn silage vs. alfalfa

Content or trait	Corn Silage	Alfalfa Silage	Alfalfa Hay
Moisture	High	Moderate to High	Low
Acidity	High	Moderate	Low
Buffering Capacity	Low to Moderate	High	Moderate to High
Bunk Stability	Low	Moderate to High	High
Starch	Moderate to High	Low	Low
Energy	High	Moderate to High	Moderate to High
Protein	Low	High	High
DIP ¹	Low	High	Moderate to High
Macro-mineral	Low	High	High
ADF	Low	Moderate	Moderate
NDF	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Effective Fiber	Low to Moderate	Moderate to High	High

¹ Degraded intake protein as a % of DM.

(Source: R.D. Shaver, University of Wisconsin, <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/forage/wfc/shaver.html>)

Table 2. Lactation performance of dairy cows fed different proportions of alfalfa and corn silage.

Item	Alfalfa Silage	1/3rd Corn Silage	2/3rd Corn Silage
DMI, lb/d	46	47	46
DMI, % BW	3.51	3.75	3.57
Milk, lb/d	68	71	69
FCM, lb/d	68	72	70
Fat, %	3.53	3.67	3.65
CP, %	3.08	3.15	3.19
305-d Milk, lb			
Mature	21,105	22,374	22,053
1st-Lactation	17,873	18,506	17,970

(neutral detergent fibre digestibility) used in formulating rations. Had the researchers used NDFD analysis and attempted to maximize the use of high quality forage in the

diet, the results may have shown that diets with a higher portion of alfalfa were equally productive.

“Forage Quick Cuts”

What people are saying about Forage Quality

Jay Hackney
PICKSEED Vice President Research and Product Development

“To maximize forage use in the rations, fiber intake must be pushed to the maximum limit of the animal that will still allow it to realize its milk production potential. Since too much fiber intake becomes the limiting factor in this situation, feeding high quality forage is critical when attempting to maximize forage intake by animals with high levels of milk production.” Ball, D.M., M. Collins, G.D. Lacefield, N.P. Martin, D.A. Mertens, K.E. Olson, D.H. Putnam, D.J. Undersander, and M.W. Wolf. 2001. Understanding Forage Quality. American Farm Bureau Federation Publication 1-01, Park Ridge, IL

“High quality hay results in better animal performance. It also reduces the need for supple-

mentation.” Gary Lacefield (Alfalfa Hay Quality Makes the Difference, AGR-137, University of Kentucky)

“Forage Quality is the single most important factor in putting together a ration.” Tom Wright, OMAFRA.

“Dairy cows fed high-quality forage produce more milk with less supplemental concentrate than cows fed lower-quality forage.” W.P. Weiss, M.L. Eastridge, J.F. Underwood, Forages for Dairy Cattle, AS-0002-99, Ohio State University Extension

“The leafy hybrid had greater digestibility and resulted in greater milk production compared with the dual-purpose hybrid”. Thomas, E. D.,

C. S. Ballard, P. Mandevbu, C. J. Sniffen, M. P. Carter, and J. Beck. 2001. J. Dairy Sei. 84 (Suppl. 1): 197(Abs.).

“The importance of quality forages in dairy rations cannot be overemphasized. Feeding average or poor quality forages may limit milk production per cow and income over feed costs. Higher-producing cows usually have greater income-over-feed costs than lower-producing cows.” Jodie Pennington, University of Arkansas.

In practical terms, forage quality has been referred to as “milk in the bucket.” Yoana C. Newman, Barry Lambert and James P. Muir. Defining Forage Quality. Texas A&M University.

Testimonial

Spencer Payne of Iona Station, Ontario: “This is our first year at seeing the Pickseed product lineup in this area. With our new seeding of PS2065MF Alfalfa, the first cut yield was exceptional. Trying to find the right window for harvest of dry hay has been really difficult in 2009. Farmers will be pleased with the uniformity, yield, regrowth and quality Pickseed Forage products provide. PS2065MF, is sure to be one of the best selling varieties for the area.”



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John; Tom and Debbie's children are Eli, Zach and Maggie. Tom tells me Eli was a torch carrier for the 2010 Olympics. The "Lynn" in Tomalynn refers to Bill and Ethel's daughter, a registered nurse and married to Clare Grills. They have three daughters; Ashley, Heather & Laura. Ashley and her husband Ian Mathers have always been an important part of the Hawman show team. Everyone seems to have a community role, whether it's a soccer team sponsored by the family to grandchildren playing soccer, baseball, hockey or basketball. Bill and Ethel work with the Farm Safety Association, Cemetery Board and their church. Bill is a PAC representative for the County and

the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, and a local board member of their milk committee. Tomalynn Farms have twice hosted the Victoria Holstein Twilight Tour. Brad, we mentioned is active in the Forage Masters, and work with the 4-H. Julia & Debbie are volunteers with Hockey and Soccer Teams. Tom is an official Holstein judge. They all are very active families, as many farm families are. The thread that binds communities woven in the local families, the histories, the events - and this the way of life is due to farm families like the Hawmans. Pickseed would like to congratulate this very successful family and thank the Hawmans for sharing their success with us.

Pickseed would like to add you to our email list to send you forage information updates

Better Forage Profits; this has been the objective of Pickseed since the company was founded in 1947 by the late Otto & Marie Pick.

Today Pickseed operates an extensive entrepreneurial Canadian research & development program for forage crops with trials and product development at 8-10 sites across Canada. The data generated from this activity is valuable and productive, pointing the way for higher yields, better forage quality and long-term stewardship of our valuable land base.

It is our sincere effort to share this information with you, the ultimate user of these results. Some of this information involves variety descriptions and advantages, other data bites include agronomic suggestions

for better yield, persistence and crop performance.

We believe the more broadly we can share this information the more benefits will flow.

To do this effectively we would add your name and email address to our data base and distribute this information electronically.

To participate in this initiative please send us your email address - Please email your address to pcraig@pickseed.com and soon you will be receiving these forage information bulletins.

Thank you
Peter Craig
Vice President
Eastern Canadian Agricultural Division
Pickseed

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Join the PICKSEED Team

Have you considered a career in selling seed? Why not join the PICKSEED team. PICKSEED has some key areas where we are looking for sales representatives in Eastern Canada.

Our sales agents have a broad range of background and experience and their talent, knowledge and emphasis on customer service combined with the quality and performance of our forage, hybrid corn and turfgrass varieties together makes an excellent recipe for success.

If you are interested, call PICKSEED's provincial Sales Manager for more details. Paul Wight 519-717-2226 (Ontario and Atlantic provinces) or Victor Lefebvre 450-230-0815 (Québec).

About The Forage Informer

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