As cattlemen, we know that you care about the health and well being of your livestock and that you are the expert in their care. We are the corn expert, let us share our expertise with you to make your cropping decisions easy so that you can focus on what matters most to your business – your cattle.

Call 1-84-GO-DEKALB to set up a meeting with your local agronomist to learn about DEKALB corn hybrid options, economics and best management practices for corn in your area.

ADDITIONAL TIPS FOR SUCCESS

The key to success when using corn for winter grazing is ensuring cattle have high quality, uniform, and a balanced diet. In addition to the timing and intensive grazing strategies mentioned earlier in this section, the following practices are recommended:

- Monitor the cattle and paddocks regularly to ensure cattle are grazing the entire corn plant including leaves and stalks, along with the ears. To reduce wastage, the corn should be strip grazed and the electric fence moved every 3-5 days. This will also promote a more balanced usage of the corn parts – ears [grain], leaves and stalk. If the ears contain more mature grain that may be high in energy, the grazing intensity should be increased to force the cattle to graze more leaves and stalks with the high energy ears. This will reduce the risk of grain overload and acidosis. This may mean moving the fence daily or every second day.
- Ensure an adequate supply of clean, fresh water or uncrusted snow is nearby and available.
- Corn is a great source of energy but it can be low in protein and some other essential nutrients [including calcium]. To ensure a high quality diet, submit a whole plant sample to a lab for quality analysis. Additional sources of roughage and mineral supplements may also be required.

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ALWAYS READ AND FOLLOW GRAIN MARKETING AND STEWARDSHIP REQUIREMENTS AND PESTICIDE LABEL DIRECTIONS.

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Corn is an option for farmers and ranchers looking to extend the grazing season and reduce feed costs per cow per day. With investments and advancements in plant breeding, the DEKALB brand is offering new corn hybrids that require less Crop Heat Units (CHU) help to sustain and grow this feeding option. Your DEKALB agronomist is a local corn expert, a partner who is eager to help you achieve high quality feed. Contact your regional DEKALB agronomist for solid advice you can profit from.

BENEFITS OF GRAZING CORN FOR YOUR CATTLE

**High Nutritional Value**
Carbohydrates and fats provide energy in beef cattle diets. Providing adequate digestible energy in beef cattle diets is important for animal health and productivity as well as ranch profitability. Grazing corn provides nutritional value that is high in energy to winter feed rations. It provides a cost-effective ration to maintain cow condition after weaning (in the late fall and early winter), and can continue to supply a balanced ration that helps cattle maintain their body condition score throughout the coldest parts of winter, without the need for additional energy sources.

**Seed Selection and Agronomic Practices**

**Seed Selection**
Yield and nutritional value comes from the plant stalks as well as fully developed ears filled with seed at the soft dough stage (about 65% moisture) prior to the killing frost.
Knowing the average CHU in your area will be helpful when selecting a corn hybrid to fit your maturity zone. Selection of a hybrid with a lower CHU rating increases the likelihood of getting a corn field with filled ears; this is good for grain corn. However, this is not necessarily true for grazing corn. A hybrid reaching grain maturity increases the risk of too much grain intake when grazing; especially when cow access is not carefully limited.

Typically, you can choose a hybrid that requires approximately 200 CHUs more than your area average when selecting for grazing or silage corn. With this CHU difference, they hybrid should still reach 65% whole plant moisture, while not yet reaching grain maturity.
Your local DEKALB agronomist can help you select the corn hybrid with the right CHUs, to position the right corn hybrids for your operation based on soil type, fertility, crop management strategies and the time of year you want your cows to graze each field.

**Stand Establishment**
Proper seeding – timing, depth and rate – are crucial for establishing a good stand, which means:
- Uniform emergence
- Optimum use of light, moisture and nutrients
- Maximum yield potential

**Seeding Date**
Corn requires a soil temperature of 8-10°C to germinate.

**Seeding Depth**
Corn should be planted about 1.5 to 2” deep and into moist soil.

**Seeding Rate**
Seeding at the recommended rate will help ensure that corn plants are uniformly spaced – allowing each plant to develop with minimal competition from neighbouring plants. Uniform plant stands typically produce higher yield per acre. One bag of DEKALB brand corn contains 80,000 kernels and the bag weight will vary depending on the seed size that is used.

One bag of DEKALB corn will seed 2.7 acres.

To calculate your seeding rate in pounds per acre:
- Decide on your desired seeding rate (30,000* seeds per acre is recommended).
- Divide the seeding rate (30,000 seeds per acre) by 80,000 (seeds per bag).

\[
\frac{30,000 \text{ seeds per acre}}{80,000 \text{ seeds per bag}} = 0.375 \text{ bags/acre}
\]

The bag weight (lbs) is printed on the top of the seed bag.
Multiply the weight by the proportion of one bag that you want to seed per acre (0.375 bags/acre) to determine the seeding rate in pounds per acre.

\[
0.375 \text{ bags/acre} \times \text{ lbs per bag (as indicated on your bag tag)} = \text{ seeding rate (in lbs/acre)}
\]

*30,000 seeds per acre does not indicate final plant stand; there can be plant stand loss depending on variable environmental conditions. Depending on your soil health and fertility you may want to increase or decrease this number.
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