



TIPS FOR SELECTING SILAGE CORN HYBRIDS

Select for Yield Stability and Agronomic Traits

- Maturity rating and is it suited for your growing area
- Traits
 - Optimum® AcreMax® for above ground insect control
 - Optimum® AcreMax® Xtreme, Qrome® for above and below ground insect control
- Important characteristics to look for in a silage corn hybrid
 - Stalk and Root Strength
 - Plant Health (green leaves later in season)
 - Stress Emergence
 - Disease Tolerance

Dry Matter Yield

- Biomass yield – Influenced by plant height of the ear
- Starch yield – Influenced by grain yield of the ear

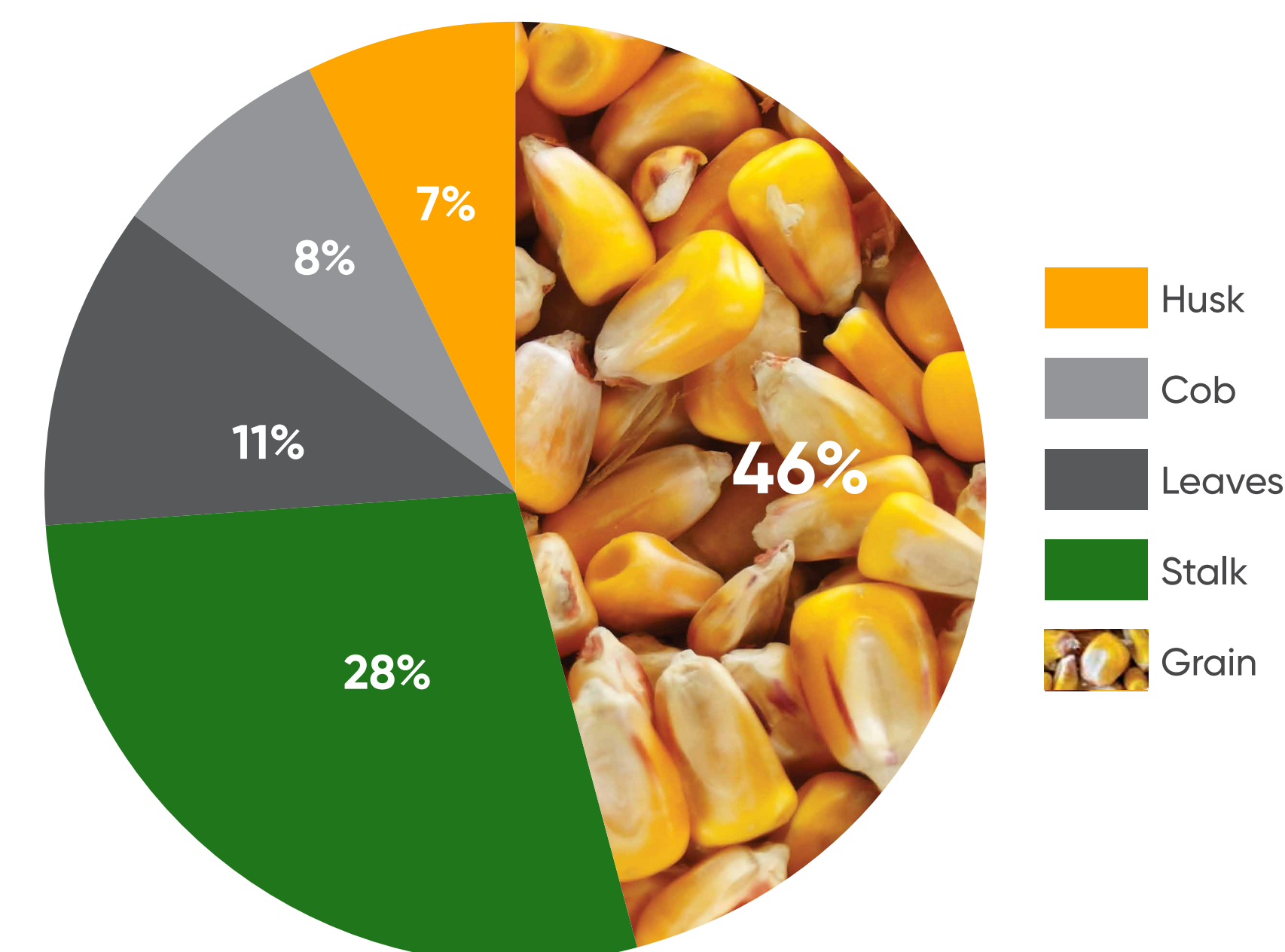
Starch Content

- Highest energy component of the corn plant is the kernel
- Heavily influenced by harvest maturity of kernel
- Short statured plants generally have high starch energy but may lack overall plant biomass tonnage

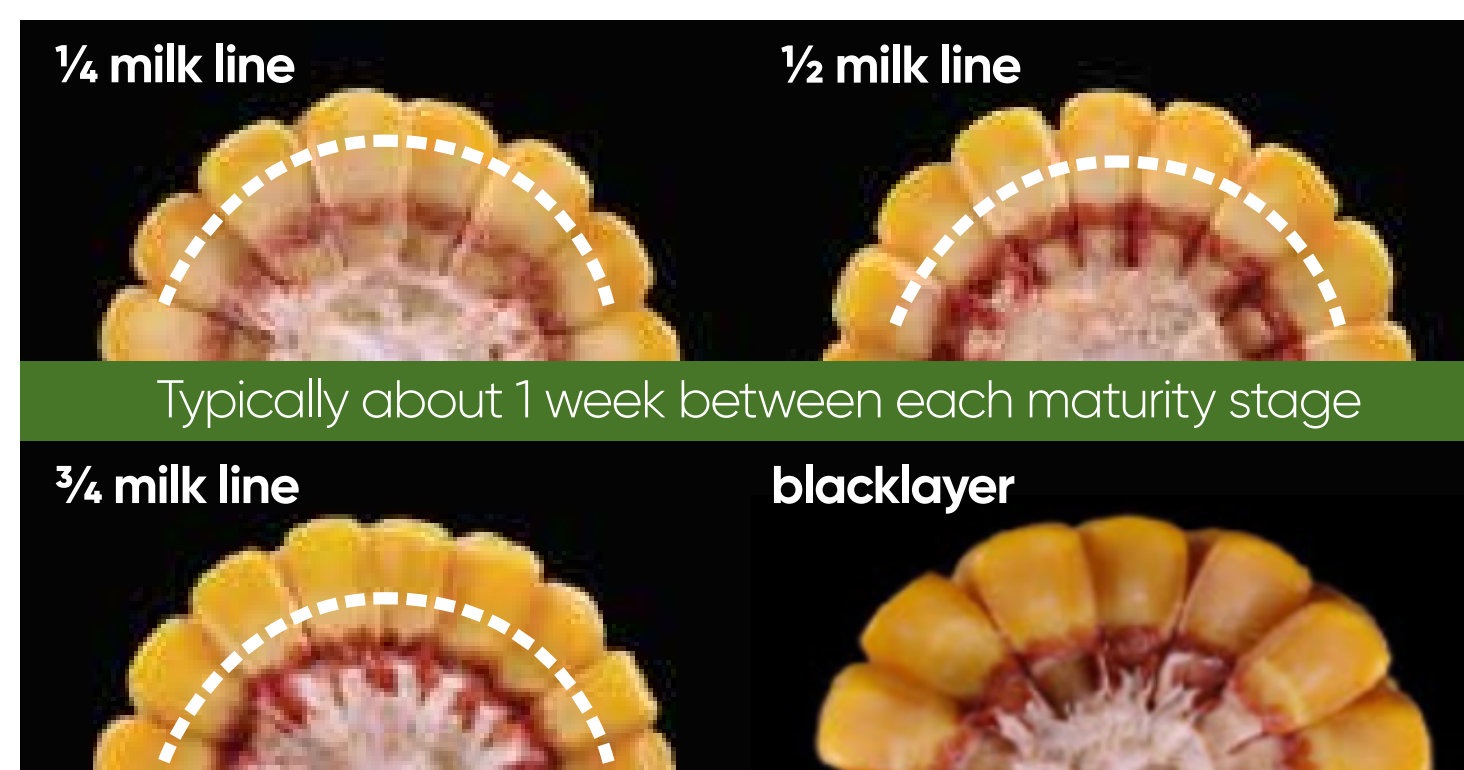
Fiber and Starch Digestibility

- No significant difference in starch digestibility between hybrids at silage maturity
- Growing environment is much more influential on fiber digestibility than selecting a particular corn hybrid

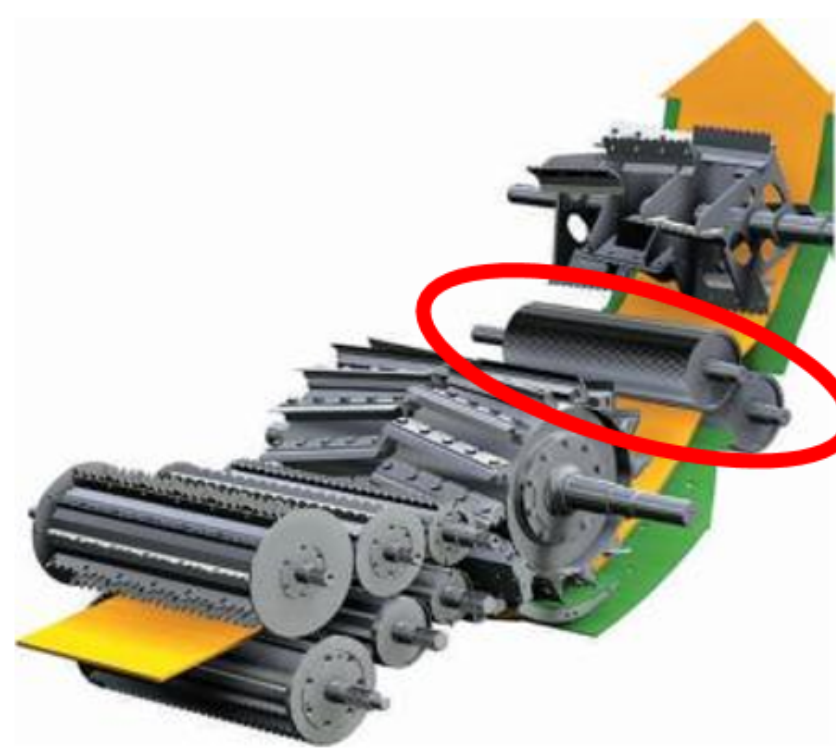
Fibre Plus Grain



Harvest Stage and Kernel Processing



Ideal silage harvest maturity is $\frac{3}{4}$ milk line and from a moisture standpoint is 62-68% Whole Plant Moisture



If chopping longer and/or harvesting more mature (to capture more starch), it is important to have the kernels adequately processed



It is becoming increasingly popular to test for fecal starch levels (goal is <3%) to help determine if grain and corn silage kernel processing was adequate