



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension

Dairy Nutrition Fact Sheet
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How Do I Price Corn Silage?

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Estimating the Price of Standing Corn Silage Using Corn Grain Price

This worksheet will assist in determining the price of corn silage based on the market price of corn grain. This values the crop standing in the field and does not include costs for harvest, transport, storage and feeding. There are no adjustments made for storage and feeding losses or variations in forage quality.

Current market price of corn grain = _____ \$/bushel
Bushels of corn grain/ton = _____ (7 is an average value –
normal corn silage)

Estimated corn silage price = _____ \$/ton

Example Calculations:

Corn (price/bushel) = \$8
Bushels of corn/ton = 7

Calculated price = \$8/bushel * 7 bushels/ton - \$56/ton

Notes:

1. To determine the price/bushel of corn grain – Divide corn grain price/ton by 35.7.
2. These calculations are based on standing corn with 35% dry matter. The final price will need to be adjusted if the dry matter varies.

Example: Standing plant is 32% DM rather than 35%

- Adjusted value = $32/35 * \text{Corn silage price}$
- = $32/35 = 0.91 * 56 = \$51.20/\text{ton}$

3. The bushels of corn grain per ton do vary. An "estimate" of bushels of corn/ton of silage can be made using an analyzed starch value for the standing corn plant. Within silage yields ranging from 15 to 25/tons/acre, the following guidelines can be used:

<u>Starch, %</u>	<u>Bushels of corn grain/ton silage</u>
20	4.1
25	5.1
30	6.1
35	7.2
40	8.2

4. Estimated adjustments for the cost of harvest, storage and storage dry matter losses range from \$20 to 30/ton based on recent data from Ohio State and Penn State.
5. If more detailed calculations are needed, see the accompanying Fact Sheet titled: "What Tools Are Available to Price Corn Silage?"