

## **High nutritional value participants ``Maismeetnet``**

Nieuwe Oogst once again followed the growth season of maize at 12 farms. The season contained a very cold spring and an extremely dry summer. At this moment the farmers are feeding their cattle with the maize.

The maize from the twelve farmers contains 991 VEM and 371 grams of starch on average. All together the farmers realized a good nutritional value of their product. Striking was that in most samples the value of cellulose was below average (180 – 200).

The cellulose value of the sample from Roger Brosens from the Wouwse Plantage was 170. The farmer explains this by pointing at the extreme fast growth of the plant. `Due to that the plants had weaker stalks with less structure. At the end of the season we could therefore see plants falling over more easily.` Directly after harvesting the cows of Brosens were fed with fresh maize. `We were out of stock. Unfortunately the fresh maize was greener than we had wished for. We didn't reach a satisfactory milk production. Especially with the older cows we lost too much milk. Only in December I already noticed that cows are starting to give more milk thanks to the new fresh maize`. At this moment the production is back to its normal level. His 120 milk cows produce around 30 – 31 liters a day on average with a fat percentage of 4,3 and a protein percentage of 3,58.

Also at the farm of Henk van der Stok from Haastrecht the highly productive cows produce 30 liters on average. The farmer didn't harvest enormous yields from his peat soil. `But regarding the weird season I am not dissatisfied`. His high productive cows are fed with maize for 1/3 and with grass for 2/3. The cows are eating well. `The yield might not be perfect, but the nutritional value is good. The starch content of my maize lies around 400 grams. I am happy to have grown maize myself. On the market maize is extremely expensive right now`

Also Ferd van de Ven from Lage Mierde experienced lower yields than he normally does. `I didn't fertilize the field with manure, but nevertheless the maize did a good job.` His young animals are enjoying the well conserved maize. The maize smells good and has a good color. The presence of the cob in the mix is relatively high, which is beneficial for the taste. The animals are fed with maize for 45% and grass for 50% complemented with rapeseed.

## **Variation in silage**

Farmer Jaap Koorn from Hippolytushoef also feeds the maize to his young animals. He didn't sample his maize. The farmer feeds his animals for 1/3 part with maize and 2/3 part with grass on a daily base. To this he also adds grass seed hay. `If I don't do this the nutritional value of the food is too high. I don't want fat animals`. After feeding Koorn covers his maize again. Especially the top layer of the silage is pretty dry. He estimates the dry matter content on 38 percent. The chance of rotting is therefore bigger. The lower layers of the maize are too wet. `Probably only 30 percent of dry matter. It also smells pretty acid`. Of course he would have loved to see a stable, tasty silage, but this seemed impossible due to weather circumstances.

Bert Wissels from Hengelo (Gld) is very satisfied, even though he also didn't have a stable silage. `The dry matter content on his different fields differed a lot. With an average of around 33 percent dry matter the maize should have been a bit dryer. Nevertheless, the cows are fed well with the product`.

His 120 milking cows produce around 29 liters on a daily base with 4,50 percent fat and 3,50 percent protein. Total feeding consists of 23 kilos of maize, 18 kilos of grass and another 1,5 kilos of grass seed hay. The nutritional value of his maize is pretty high containing 1009 VEM and 379 grams of starch. `We do notice that we have less yields. Also in case of grass. Of course the dry summer plays a decisive role in that , but above all we experience that too little manure is costing us yield`.

### **Beautiful manure**

The maize containing the highest starch content (428 grams) was that of Roelof de Jong from Sibrandabuorren. The farmer grew maize under film. His 83 cows seem to digest the maize well, because they are producing good manure. The maize is conserved well and smells good. The cows eat everything they are fed with and produce around 27 liters per day.

The maize of Willy Aarts from Hallum is the wettest, containing only 30 percent dry matter. This also causes a lower starch content (333 gram). His maize shows that postponing the moment of harvesting will be rewarded with higher contents. Unfortunately this wasn't possible for Aarts regarding the heavy rains. `The maize could have been dryer, but the product is consumed well by the cows`. Aarts feeds his cows around 2 kilograms of dry matter per day.

Wim Vedder from Gasselternijveenschemond also succeeded in harvesting later. The dry matter content of his maize lies around 34 percent. The silage is conserved well and doesn't seem to be rotting. The farmer only feeds his cows with maize for 10 percent. Besides that 80 percent grass and 10 percent potato fiber. Following this, his 80 milking cows produce around 27 liters a day. `This could have been higher, but regarding the full stable and a virus amongst the cows, we are pretty satisfied`.

### **It could have been dryer**

Jan Oskam from Leusden call his maize analysis `average`. The product contains 32 percent of dry matter and 988 VEM. The starch content is only 338 grams. `The maize should have been dryer. In that case the maize would have contained more starch. But due to weather circumstances we couldn't wait any longer before harvesting`. His 83 cows produce around 30 kilos of milk per day with a fat percentage of 4,25 and a protein percentage of 3,36.

### **Good maize thanks to fertile soil**

The maize with the highest value (1.015 VEM) is that of farmer Bas Fokkert from Holthone. `The resistance against diseases of our cows was not satisfactory last year. So a product like this is very much welcome`. Striking is the fact that the maize is not very dry (32 percent dry matter), but nevertheless contains a lot of starch (382 grams). This is probably caused by the condition of the soil. `On this field I grew the maize for the 1<sup>st</sup> year after a couple of years grass. This means that the soil contains many nutrients. Also the structure of the soil is excellent. I also grow maize on fields for 8 years in a row. These crops obviously contain less nutritional value`.

<b>Farmer</b>	Wissels	Fokkert	De Jong	Oskam	Van de Ven	Aarts
<b>Location</b>	Hengelo (Gld)	Holthone	Sibrandabuorren	Leusden	Lage Mierde	Hallum
	LG 30.211	LG 30.218	P8000	Messago	Grosso	LG 30.211
<b>VEM</b>	1009	1015	1004	988	969	1011
<b>DM</b>	33,7	32,3	37,4	32,3	36,5	30,6
<b>Starch</b>	379	382	428	338	367	333
<b>Protein</b>	72	67	60	64	74	61
Crude Cellulosis	164	165	158	184	168	205
Soil	34	36	41	37	36	44
Digestion % of Organice Matter	77,9	78,4	78,1	76,8	75,5	75,4
<b>NDF</b>	346	341	337	375	358	430
<b>ADF</b>	189	188	180	210	203	233

<b>Farmer</b>	Van der Stok	Reintjes	Brosens	Vedder	BLGG AgroXpertus
<b>Location</b>	Haastrecht	Ottersum	Wouwse Plantage Torres	Gasselternijv eenschmond LG 30.222	Wished results
	LG 30.211	LG 30.224			
<b>VEM</b>	1011	1000	971	983	920 – 1000
<b>DM</b>	37,3	38,5	33,2	34,3	32 – 36
<b>Starch</b>	396	375	374	342	320 – 400
<b>Protein</b>	65	65	68	65	75 – 85
Crude Cellulosis	151	166	170	186	180 – 200
Soil	49	35	38	36	35 – 50
Digestion % of Organic Matter	79	77,4	75,8	76,4	73 – 78
<b>NDF</b>	326	356	347	386	370 – 420
<b>ADF</b>	172	190	194	214	190 – 220