



2017 Forage Analysis Wrap Up

Byron does it again!

It's almost starting to become old hat. Byron Seeds once again did very well at the 2017 FASB. We claimed three Grand Champions and netted 33 Finalists out of the 100 possible. As matter of fact, we only entered categories with 70 finalists. Therefore, our percentage of finalists was almost 50%!

Our three Grand Champions were in Haylage, Corn Silage and Organic Hay. We actually had the first five places in Haylage plus four more in the top 20. Another neat thing was that all three of our champions were raised organic!

To understand the dynamics of this edition of the 2017 FASB, there was a big change in the number of entries. The extras came from a single company: Pioneer. Much speculation whirled about the interested parties at the World Dairy Expo. One theory was that Pioneer was trying to show its dominance in corn silage so that when things got shuffled out, a corporate decision wouldn't be made that Pioneer would become the field corn company and new partner Mycogen would be the corn silage company. In actuality, Pioneer sells three or four times more CS corn than Mycogen.

This turned out not to be the case. When the total entry list was published, it became rather obvious that Pioneer was gunning for poor little old Byron Seeds! Pioneer entered 379 Standard Corn Silages, 131 BMR and a whopping 81 Haylages (which usually has fewer than 40 entries total and one that we also traditionally do well in). Yes, Pioneer did have the two best corn silages in the FASB (the overall Grand Champion and the Grand Champion First-Time Entrant). These are pulled out of the class, and the next man up (our MC4050) is the Grand Champ for Std. CS.

The next dynamic is that Pioneer had 31 samples entered (almost 10% of their entries) in the Standard Corn Silage category and a few more in the BMR category that ranged from 44% starch to 63% starch! A 63% starch, with simple math, will be 90% corn and 10% fodder. The FASB committee must have realized something was wrong because no sample over 44.5% starch was a finalist. 'Nuff said.

In the Haylage category—again, remember that Byron had the top 5 and top 9 out of the top 20. Pioneer had three finalists out of their 81 entries: Nos. 9, 15 and 17!

In total, Byron had 33 finalists and 82 total entrants. Pioneer had two Champions and 22 finalists, with just short of 600 entries; Mycogen had only one Champion and five finalists out of over 200 entries. So, it was Mycogen that got almost shut out by Pioneer's big move, not Byron Seeds, as Pioneer had apparently intended.

All in all, it was another great year for Byron Seeds at the 2017 FASB!