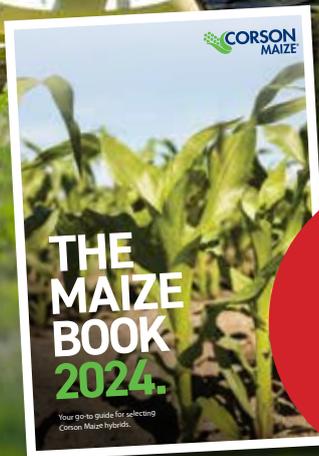


NEW ZEALAND Dairy Exporter

WINTER 2024

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Family Business Reymer Ag see the Benefits in Corson Maize Hybrids



This publication has been supplied by Corson Maize in collaboration with Dairy Exporter Magazine. It provides up to date information from Corson Maize on this season's maize developments, crops and sustainability. There is an on farm story from Dairy Exporter and contributions supplied by PGG Wrightson Seeds, Grevillia Ag and PGG Wrightson Grain.



“I grow Corson Maize for resilience”

DAVIN MUDFORD

From adversity to solo farming feats, Davin’s story is all about resilience. Now running both a successful aviation and farming business, Davin continues to rely on his relationship with Corson Maize. Join Davin and many others in going for maize hybrid resilience - and place your order early this season.

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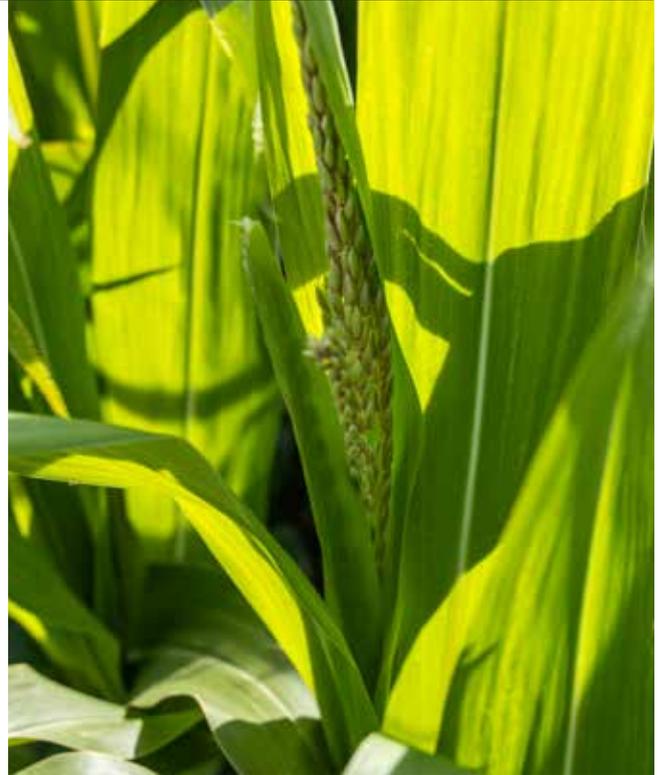
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*Ask your retailer. Offer is subject to your retailer’s credit criteria and approval. #Terms and conditions apply. Ask in store or visit corsonmaize.co.nz for details.

Welcome to the 2024 Corson Maize Dairy Exporter

Graeme Austin National Business Manager



THIS EDITION FEATURES some key stories from dairy farmers who have seen the benefits of integrating Corson Maize hybrids into their farm systems.

At Corson Maize, we focus on providing great maize hybrids you can rely on. In order to do this, we search for three key things – yield, quality and resilience. This may sound simple, but there is a lot of hard work that goes into finding the right maize hybrid.

We are very fortunate at Corson Maize to have access to maize genetics from all over the world, which includes some of the largest international maize seed companies, as well as some of the smaller niche providers of specialised maize genetics.

Once we have selected suitable maize hybrids we think could work in New Zealand conditions, we place them in our country-wide trial programme. This past season has included 22 intensive replicated trials, with more than 90 strip commercial trials testing more than 120 new hybrids that could be the hybrids of the future.

To test for yield, quality and resilience, we are looking at over 20 different characteristics of maize plants. Examples of the key characteristics we observe include the plant's ability to withstand dry or windy conditions and how they tolerate pest and disease challenges in New Zealand. We then evaluate each hybrid during a four-year trial

programme before advancing to the commercial stage. To make the 'A List', it must prove to us that it is better than what we already have!

The rigorous evaluation we put each hybrid through ensures we are providing the strongest candidates for each hybrid maturity range for all growing areas across New Zealand.

We have an adaptable and powerful lineup of maize hybrids for dairy farmers in New Zealand. If you would like to know more about our hybrids, please contact one of our team or your local rural retailer and I am sure we can find the right hybrid from our range for your farm.

I hope you enjoy the read! All the best for the coming season ahead. ●



Graeme Austin
National Business Manager



SCAN TO DOWNLOAD THE MAIZE BOOK



Hybrid Naming System

IN 2022 WE renamed some of our existing maize hybrid products using the PAC naming system. We understand that may have been confusing for those who were familiar with our previous names. We also understand that the use of “PAC” may be confusing because it is associated with Pacific Seeds.

To clarify the changes we have made, we wish to make it clear that not all our hybrids are sourced from Pacific Seeds, and that we have adopted the Pacific Seeds (PAC) naming convention to meet market requests and simplify the names we use. The table alongside sets out the new PAC name and the previous names of each hybrid.

We previously described a group of hybrids as “Dairy Platform Specialist Maize Hybrids”. They were also advertised as a new group and newly introduced. The hybrids in this group were existing Corson hybrids that were selected by us as suitable for use on dairy platforms. Corson Maize is not marketing a dairy platform range of hybrids. Corson Maize will also no longer be selling PAC 200 (Afinity) in 2024.

CORSON MAIZE HYBRIDS AND PAC IDENTIFICATION

PREVIOUS NAME	CRM	NEW NAME
PAC 624	115	PAC 624
PAC 564	113	PAC 564
Z71-F1	111	PAC 500
PAC 430	108	PAC 430
PAC 432	105	PAC 432
G49-T9	104	PAC 355
PAC 344	102	PAC 344
PAC 314	101	PAC 314
N39-Q1	97	PAC 295
PAC 249	95	PAC 249
PAC 144	94	PAC 144
Comet	92	PAC 100
PAC 119	90	PAC 119
Booster	81	PAC 007

Note: The table above refers to our product range that existed in 2022 that was part of the PAC name changing convention and that Corson Maize are still selling.

Key:

■ Name change

Environmental Update

AT CORSON MAIZE, our core business is to provide growers with a range of premium hybrids for silage and grain production, and in doing this, we recognise the benefits that maize can provide for New Zealand farmers.

Maize is an important crop for New Zealand farmers, helping enhance feed supply, both for silage and grain, helping manage climatic risk on farms, and supporting ongoing pasture renewal and farm development.

Growing maize is very important for controlling and managing appropriate nutrient levels in soils to protect the environment. Maize requires high levels of nitrogen and potassium to grow well and can be utilised to either extract high levels of these nutrients from the soil or to reduce potential leaching of these environmentally damaging nutrients in order to protect our waterways.

According to studies (including those published by Michigan State University Extension*) another significant benefit of maize is that it is a plant which efficiently utilises



carbon dioxide during photosynthesis. This characteristic makes maize a valuable crop for building up soil carbon, and depending upon subsequent cropping and cultivation activities, can lead to carbon sequestration. By incorporating maize into agricultural practices, farmers can not only achieve high yields, but also play a role in environmental conservation by enhancing soil health, reducing nutrient loadings and leaching into waterways, as well as contributing to carbon sequestration.

In addition to the natural benefits of maize, Corson Maize is focused on alternative ways in which we can contribute to environmental health, and the most recent example of this is our participation (as a founding member) in

Agrecovery’s bag recycling programme. ●

To find out more on this sustainable recycling programme visit agrecovery.co.nz

*www.canr.msu.edu/news/corn_fields_help_clean_up_and_protect_the_environment

Wheels Up!

Flying high with Corson Maize research

FROM THE EARLIEST point of civilisation, the wheel has been at the forefront of human progress, innovation and endeavour! We've been thinking about how we can introduce innovation into our research programme and we're excited to present our latest project.

Corson Maize brings to you the maize hybrid population wheel, a new development this season at the Newstead demonstration site. The Corson Maize hybrid population wheel is a concise visualisation, planted to illustrate the changes within maize plants as their population rate increases. Each hybrid row within the wheel is planted at the same rate and with consistent spacing within the row. Moving from the perimeter to the centre, hybrid population rate effectively increases based on the space between rows. Starting at 30,000-35,000 plants per hectare moving across a gradient of increasing population to roughly 150,000-155,000 plants per hectare at the centre as rows become closer to one another.

The wheel in the photo (above right) has five different hybrids, with seven to nine rows of each hybrid, ranging from some of our shortest maturity hybrids through to our longest maturity hybrids. The shortest maturity starts from the right of the missing row and the hybrids increase in maturity as you move anti-clockwise. The missing row allows access to the centre of the wheel, allowing for a great perspective when on foot. While this may have a slight impact on the rows planted close to the walkway our observations stay the same.

Right from planting we observed changes in the plants from the impact of variable population. As the planting population rate of hybrids increased closer towards the centre of the wheel, so too did plant height. However the increase in plant height with planting population rate reached a limit, eventually resulting in diminishing height



as planting population rates became too high. These observations were seen across all of the hybrids planted on the wheel. Our theory, based on our observations is that a plant/ha rate that is too high creates excessive competition for resources such as light, water and nutrients, inhibiting the growth potential of each of the hybrids.

Another interesting observation that the hybrid wheel illustrated was the impact of increasing population on the rate of plant drydown. The increased population significantly impacted the plant's ability to withstand challenges such as leaf disease and lack of water.

This demonstration also illustrated the impact that population planting rate had on cob size too. The photo to the left shows cobs planted low to high population from left to right. The cobs in this photo were picked from every second plant within a row and demonstrates the variation from low to high planting population rates. As you can see this had a significant impact with cobs planted at lower population being significantly larger than higher populations. Although the wheel demonstration does not provide evidence of the perfect planting population, it has been backed up by the research team with a host of additional population trials that supports this demonstration. These trials have shown us the impact of population/ha rates on the final yield, quality and the plants ability to withstand the conditions.

They have also provided us with excellent data to ensure, in the future, we can provide growers with robust information on how to best manage yield and quality in relation to planting populations for their Corson Maize hybrids. ●

For more information on Corson Maize hybrids contact your local Corson Maize Sales Agronomist.

Disclaimer: The population wheel was only created for demonstration purposes. The population wheel is not representative of formal data and any claims pertaining to changes in population and yield or any other characteristics are only what we have observed in this demonstration. Corson Maize recognises that the gradient of changing plant population is not typically seen in the field and that this demonstration may be a skewed representation as a result.



Harvesting Growth

Maize has been a talking point around the Reymer family kitchen table for decades. The generational contracting business in the heart of the Waikato has taken the journey alongside dairy farmers as maize has become an integral part of the industry.

Words **Sheryl Haitana** Photos **Emma McCarthy**

SIXTY YEARS AGO just a few dairy farmers were growing a couple of acres of maize each year to help fatten the cows. But the writing was on the wall – maize silage was going to become a popular supplementary feed on more dairy farms.

Back then, contractors would plant maize for silage after they had finished planting the maize for grain, with the maize silage then being harvested relatively late (after Easter), Pirongia contractor Bill Reymer remembers.

“There were two reasons for that; firstly because the hybrids were not as short growing as they are now, and two because the maize didn’t get planted until the contractor had planted all the grain. Maize was about 95% grown for grain in the Waikato back then,” he says.

Bill expanded his contracting business to meet the increased demand of farmers growing maize. His brother John and Andrew Reymer had another contracting business at Ohaupo and the brothers worked together during the years contracting and growing their own businesses.

Maize silage continues to shape dairy farming in the region, from those early days in the 1970s when it really started to get noticed by more farmers.

Bill has continued to upgrade his machinery from a single-row harvester, to 2-row to 3-row as the demand increased. After a succession of John Deere harvesters, Reymer Ag Contracting finally purchased their first brand new harvester – a John Deere 8600 in 2022.

“The machines have got bigger and quicker,” says Bill, “but the principles of how the machines work hasn’t really changed.”

Fast forward to today, Reymer Ag Contracting, owned by Bill and Lyn Reymer and their sons Mike and Chris, plant and harvest more than 700 ha of maize around the Waipa District. Growing and contracting their own maize to trade is about a third of their contracting business so selecting the best cultivars to plant is key to trading a good product, but also for logistics come harvest time, Chris says.



The Corson Maize hybrid's have the ability to hold on when every farmer is wanting their maize harvested at the same time.

"We like their drought tolerance and their staygreen. When you're really under the pump and we've got to do our bread and butter, our customers work, we know our maize can stand there for another week if it has to," Chris says.

Mike and Chris are also partners in their sharemilking business, which is milking 300 cows on 95 ha at Ngahinapouri. The System 2-3 operation is buying between 120-130 tonnes of maize silage every year to feed in the autumn and spring, Mike says.

"The maize is really good to help keep condition on the cows during the autumn. We're also looking to feed more during the spring to push out our peak a bit extra."

The passion for contracting and growing maize has also flown through to Bill and Lyn's daughter Talie who works for Corson Maize as a Sales and Research Agronomist. Talie spent hours in tractors and harvesters growing up and flipping through the maize brochures on the table.

She studied Bachelor of Science (BSc) majoring in Earth Sciences at Waikato University and has now landed her "dream job" which involves analysis of all the Corson Maize hybrids as well as planting the trial hybrids all around New Zealand, driving the tractor and operating the planter. "I've always had an interest in maize, I remember looking at the maize hybrid information and being intrigued at the ideas behind them and how they knew the agronomic characteristics of each hybrid."

Last year, Talie got talking maize with Mike Turner – Corson Maize National Research Manager through the Pirongia Junior Rugby Club. Mike has a long customer relationship with the Reymer's assisting them with their hybrid selections for many years. That chat led to Talie taking up a role working with Mike and the Corson Maize trial research programme in 2023.

"I've done planting both manning the seeds into the planter and tractor operation, but it was not easy to operate a green tractor after a strong Massey Ferguson following growing up."

Talie enjoys being out in the field and with her science background is enthusiastic about what Corson Maize are doing with their research programme helping to adapt the hybrid portfolio to different farm conditions.

"What I like about Corson Maize is we have a large diverse range of genetics that we select from, and I really enjoy seeing how they perform in NZ soils. I really like the science aspect of what Corson is doing in terms of population studies, it's not just the hybrids they're looking at, it's all aspects of maize growing."

Rather than just selling seed, Corson Maize is looking at how you can get a better maize quality result in terms of megajoules of metabolisable energy as opposed to just yield.

"I also enjoy travelling the country and seeing how the maize changes and adapts to its environment in the different regions, looking at the ear heights, the staygreen, the drydown of the starch in the kernels etcetera, it's all relative to where it's being grown." ●

BELOW Bill Reymer increased his contracting business as dairy farmers found the value of maize in the Waikato. **LEFT** The machines might be bigger today, but they still operate by the same principles. **OPPOSITE PAGE** Talie, Mike, Chris and Bill Reymer live and breathe maize. **FAR LEFT TOP** Corson Maize flex ears are adaptable to different conditions. **FAR LEFT BOTTOM** The Reymer family.





History to Harvest

Tamar Farm, nestled in the picturesque landscape near Mt Somers, Canterbury, is a truly unique and expansive agricultural endeavour led by Richard and Chrissie Wright.

THE AWARD-WINNING Ashburton farm, covering more than 2000 ha, boasts a breathtaking backdrop of the Southern Alps and is flanked by river boundaries on two sides, creating a setting that is not only a business, but a place the couple are proud to call home.

Richard and Chrissie have instilled a family atmosphere within the operation, with their three adult children, Jessica, Thomas, and Oliver, and their partners, actively involved in the farm's day-to-day activities and/or policies. The family values extend beyond the Wrights, as the farm also serves as a home for their staff and their families.

Diversity is at the core of their farming approach, encompassing beef, cropping, lamb finishing, three dairy units and dairy support. Tamar Farm has a self-sustained focus demonstrated by finishing 1800 calves and producing 90% of the required feed for their beef and dairy animals onfarm.

This self-sustained focus was the catalyst of Richard and Chrissie's farm-to-table part of the business. Having an established Red Devon beef herd which harks back to Richard's heritage in Devon, England, has meant they've been able to support their focus on providing food from their farms direct to consumers.

Originating from the Southwest of England, James Busby introduced Red Devons to New Zealand in 1838 in the Bay of Islands. Despite their longstanding presence in the country, Red Devon cattle remain relatively unknown in New Zealand. Tamar Farm maintains a breeding herd of approximately 300 cows, initiated in 2002. The Wrights employ selective breeding techniques, including ultra scanning for Intramuscular Fat (IMF) and Eye Muscle Area (EMA). This ensures a high-quality product with excellent liveweight-to-carcass-weight percentage and superbly marbled, flavourful beef.

"There's a lot of energy in maize so we use it to finish our beef, targeting high intramuscular fat to help put weight on their beef cattle, creating fantastic cuts of meat," Richard says.

They currently sell 6-10 carcasses per week into local butcheries based in Leeston, Ashburton and Temuka in addition to their front gate.

"We wanted to be able to tell people our story and our customers love to know where their meat comes from. There's a lack of traceability in New Zealand. A lot of meat gets thrown on the truck and shipped off to McDonalds or the next supermarket," continues Richard.

The Wrights have also teamed up with local pie manufacturers to ensure that the cheaper cuts are still getting put to good use.

They grow 250 ha of winter fodder crops on Tamar Farm, which include fodder beet, swedes and kale varieties. Additionally, they cultivate 60 ha of lucerne, 20 ha of barley, and 58 ha of maize, growing Corson Maize hybrid PAC 007 (Booster). They employ spray irrigation on 1,250 ha, drawing water from onfarm storage ponds and local water schemes. They also purchase further maize and used 100 ha



ABOVE Richard and Chrissie Wright. **TOP RIGHT** Some of their Horror Maze volunteers. **BOTTOM MIDDLE** The Wrights' Red Devon herd. **BOTTOM RIGHT** Tamar beef steaks.



last season. Maize is used in their farming system to supplement both the dairy and the beef side of the business. “In the wintertime, we get our autumn calving beef cows in calf – maize is an excellent product to mix with grass especially to put weight on and maintain body condition. There’s a limited time to put weight on dairy cows, the goal is to put that weight on during milking in the autumn,” explains Richard.

Stewardship is a key focus for the Wrights and is treated as the foundation for their farming, actively seeking sustainable practices. This foundation is top of mind when reflecting on their four business pillars’ – People, Animals, Land and Environment. They are not only values on paper, but ingrained in every decision and action on the farm. The emphasis on supporting the community, developing their team and maintaining biosecurity measures showcases the holistic approach Tamar Farm adopts.

The Wrights have proactively sought ways to implement stewardship. One of the measures taken includes their involvement in the Nestlé sustainability programme, an initiative set up to measure and reduce the carbon footprint and greenhouse gas emissions produced by dairy farmers in New Zealand. The programme does this by providing education and working with farmers to reduce emissions, improve nutrient management, and promote regenerative agriculture onfarm.

The decision to introduce Corson Maize to their farm plays an important role in their self-sustaining journey. Maize is a key contributor to initiatives in the Nestlé programme, aiding with nutrient management and reducing nutrient loadings while providing high-quality silage. The Wrights have been growing PAC 007 (Booster), which has an excellent reputation as a high-yielding, early

maturing maize hybrid. PAC 007 (Booster) has worked well as it produces a lot of drymatter in a short amount of time.

The early maturity of this hybrid has meant that they’ve been able to harvest prior to frosts. In previous years, the Wrights have achieved roughly 22-25 tDM/ha, feeding out to not only the dairy cows, but also assisting in achieving weight gain targets in the beef herd and finishers.

The Wrights focus on stewardship is not just focused on their farm, but also their wider community, with a strong commitment to supporting local organisations and initiatives, reinforcing their commitment to the broader wellbeing of Mt Somers and wider Mid-Canterbury.

The decision to plant maize has also meant that they have been able to engage in the community further, having recently hosted a maize maze, including two horror nights to raise funds for their local St John’s. The maize maze event was a huge success, raising \$20,000.

The Wrights were very impressed by everyone’s involvement in the event. “One minute you were getting chased by the Grim Reaper, the next by a chainsaw, and suddenly you’re running into a Rottweiler,” shares Richard.

“It was great to see the community get behind it, to see how our staff and St John Youth Group members became actors and help from members from the local Lions Clubs running the sausage sizzle.”

The future looks bright for Tamar Farm, with their plans to expand the Tamar beef brand further.

Grounded in their commitment to responsible stewardship, Tamar Farm is positioned to embrace the future with assurance, leaving a lasting positive impact for future generations. ●

A Tale of Two Choppers

Expansion, a tireless work ethic and determination has seen this family grow and develop their farming business and operation with maize hybrids at the core.

THIS CORSON MAIZE story started 50 years ago when Davin Mudford's parents were involved in precision-cut maize silage in 1974. The Mudford's were contract harvesting for other farms around the district and identified an opportunity where maize could benefit their own farm. This prompted the Mudford's to start growing maize as supplementary feed for the dairy cows on their farm in Otorohanga, Waikato.

When Davin's father sadly passed away suddenly when Davin was only ten years old, his mother, Gwenda, determined to make a success of the farm, continued to run the farm by herself and Davin's responsibilities quickly increased.

Over the years, the Mudford's expanded their farming operation and purchased another farm in 1985, where Davin milked 220 cows by himself on one farm, while Gwenda milked 240 by herself on the other.

When times became tough in dairying towards the end of the 80s, to earn extra money, Davin would get up at 1 am, milk the cows, and then go off and drive trucks. The increase in work meant Gwenda would have to milk Davin's cows at 1pm and then milk her own cows afterwards. In addition to milking, they would rear another 400 calves, which helped with their income.

Always looking for a new opportunity, Davin gained his fixed-wing pilot's license in 1989, shortly followed by flying helicopters in 1992.

Davin gained further experience flying helicopters by working for Skyworks and managing their base in Tokoroa. He eventually purchased their central North Island business in 2005 and set up HeliA1 based in Otorohanga. This business now works all over the North Island as well as overseas, and at the time of writing this story, Davin's son Alex is fulfilling a contract to fly in Bora Bora. Hand-in-hand with the Heli business development, Davin has expanded his onfarm contracting business for local farmers from his Otorohanga base.

As he has continued to grow maize over the years for his dairy operation, he has seen how maize has benefited other dairy farms and has supported those around him to start growing maize.

He now has all the equipment for growing and harvesting maize for locals and has recently added a second



ABOVE You can't fly this chopper! Davin's latest forage harvester.
BELOW Local Corson Maize Sales Agronomist Maria Klaus (left) and Davin in front of one of his three helicopters.



forage harvester to the fleet. When asked why he continues to grow Corson Maize hybrids, Davin says they have always yielded well.

"They have been so reliable in all the different conditions that we see happening these days. Leaf disease is a real problem now, and Corson Maize hybrids aren't as prone to it [leaf disease] as the other hybrids in the market. I can always rely on their hybrids, and I can always rely on their team, Maria looks after me really well."

Davin's dairy operation has developed over the years and he now spring calves 460 cows on 153 ha effective in Otorohanga. He is currently feeding about 1 t of maize silage drymatter/per cow/per year. Davin intends to keep this up to ensure feed gaps are filled and increase production as needed to ensure his herd maintains its production levels and body condition.

What does the future hold for Davin and his businesses? Well, only as a pilot would say, "the sky's the limit." ●

Wind, Waves, and Maize



Chris and Karley Amon and their three sons live on their property based just out of Waverley, South Taranaki. They've been dairy farming the land and shaping their legacy for more than two decades on their coastal property.

SHOWING A STRONG interest in farming at a young age and determined to follow in his father's footsteps, Chris Amon borrowed capital for his first farm shortly after leaving school in 1991. Since then, he has been able to expand his operation across three properties: a 90 ha home dairy farm, and an 80 ha dairy farm, in total milking 700 cows supported by an additional 141 ha runoff block.

Operational efficiency is key on Chris' farms. With a focus on maximising productivity while minimising cost, he has fine-tuned his system over the years. The integration of maize feeding into his daily operation has been pivotal in maintaining condition year-round. Growing maize serves not only as a cost-effective feed supplement for Chris' dairy herd, but it also extends lactation and helps to maintain cow body condition throughout the year.

Chris' journey is not without its trials. Located on the coastal fringes, his farm is often faced with strong winds, presenting some hurdles to growing maize. Through this, Chris has learned to leverage the unique characteristics of his land, recognising the benefits of prioritising quality paddocks for maize growing.

"I've grown maize here in the lighter sand areas and we've tried ploughing it and power harrowing it, but found the wind has had a big impact; wind is a big factor here and most people know that now," Chris explains.

Chris moved his maize and planted further up the road

onto more volcanic ash type soil and into a more sheltered zone, which has meant that he's been able to cultivate, with less impact from wind, to achieve great results.

Chris emphasises the importance of selecting the right maize variety for his specific needs. Through working closely with Sales Agronomist Cameron Hussey, Chris has found a reliable partnership with Corson Maize.

"We've planted PAC 200 (Afinity) this season [2023 - 2024]. It's a staygreen plant with a large cob and can be easy to get away with 100 CRM in this area."

Feeding out 3 kg/day/head has meant that Chris needs enough feed in the pit to last the year. A CRM of 100 is typically on the higher end of maturities for Chris' area, but he's been able to target that based on the staygreen of PAC 200 (Afinity). Having a CRM of 100 means that Chris is able to plant in mid-October and harvest in mid to late March so that grass can be planted by mid to late April, which suits his system.

"There's a lot of maize grown in this area that tends to use just the one contractor, which means that he can be very busy," Cameron adds.

"Having a plant that holds its staygreen helps to achieve yield and keeps the crop green meaning we don't have to rush to get the plant harvested." PAC 200 (Afinity) won't be available in 2024 as it has been superseded by improved hybrids PAC 314, PAC 298 (NEW) and PAC 287 (NEW).

"Compared to the rest of the area," continues Chris, "our crop has been right up there with the good stuff that we've seen. Personally, unless it's really sheltered, I don't think there would be much better around the area than ours."

As Chris looks ahead to the next season, his priorities remain clear. With a focus on maintaining his current operational structure and prioritising maize cultivation and strategic maize feeding, he is positioned for continued success. ●





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PGW Grain has a large nationwide team of Sales Representatives who can offer farmers information on feeding options. One of PGW Grain's North Island team members is Kane Ongley. Kane has a wealth of experience in the farming industry, with a focus on grain, having worked in the industry for 20 years, five of which have been with PGW Grain.

Most of Kane's work is within the dairy industry, helping farmers find feed solutions for their goals. He finds that adding maize grain is one of the most common feeding solutions. It is often sold in the dairy market as a high-dietary starch and cost-effective supplementary feed option, which positions it as a great product for milk production and/or promoting body condition.

The level of dietary starch in maize grain is fantastic for increasing the supply of glucose to the cow without the trade-offs of alternatives. Rumen microbial activity converts dietary starch into volatile fatty acid (VFA) at a steady rate, which is then converted into glucose in the liver. It's the availability of blood glucose that helps to support ruminant function, body condition and milk production.

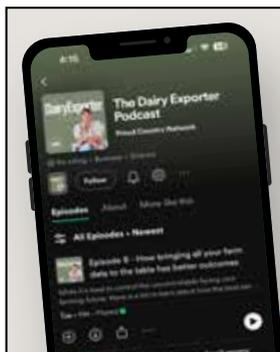
"We've seen the industry move away from assessing feed purely on a \$/tDM. One aspect that is often overlooked is the dollars of starch per tonne of dry matter" says Kane. Different dairy feeds can be valued and compared on a \$ per tonne of starch basis, which is always a strong consideration for Kane suggesting whether a feed



solution might be a good fit. Another part of Kane's role is to promote the Gusto stock feed range. Distributed through PGG Wrightson stores and manufactured by PGG Wrightson Grain, Gusto provides a range of competitively priced feeds suitable for a wide range of livestock. Gusto utilises grains exclusively grown in New Zealand, is Feedsafe accredited, and has recently updated its bags to be recyclable through the Agrecovery programme. All excellent initiatives to provide New Zealand farmers with fresh, high-quality ingredients with good quality control standards and environmentally conscious packaging.

Kane manages the distribution of the products from store to store. "Providing grain as fresh as possible provides a palatable end product that maintains the strongest nutrient profile", explains Kane. In addition to the careful coordination of the Gusto distribution, Kane visits stores across the North Island to provide product updates and training on best uses for each of the products. ●

If you're keen to discuss your feed needs, give Kane a call; he will be very happy to work with you to supply your farm with livestock feed for the coming season. Kane Ongley 027 473 2537
kongley@pggwrightsongrain.co.nz



The Dairy Exporter Podcast

Released weekly we dive deep into a central theme with three experts per episode - providing you with advice, information and technical insights to help improve your farm business.

dairyexporter.co.nz/podcasts



Si-Lac Silage Inoculants

RAPIDLY REDUCING THE PH of freshly harvested forage (grass, maize, cereal and particularly lucerne or clover) is critical to the outcome of your silage. The faster the process is completed, the less losses that will occur during the ensiling process and the better nutritional value and economic value your silage will have. Si-Lac silage and hay inoculants use a fresh culture system where the bacteria are metabolically active when applied to the silage effectively giving the silage process a head start over conventional inoculants or untreated silage. Using freshly cultured bacteria produces a much stronger and faster silage fermentation compared to the old technology of freeze-dried inoculants.

Independent silage researchers have shown the freshly cultured approach to be much more effective than standard inoculants with productivity advantages in excess of 30%. Small gains in the fermentation process can lead to large gains financially. Si-Lac silage and hay inoculants are

the only fresh cultured bacterial inoculants developed and manufactured in Australasia. Si-Lac inoculants also contain the very important starter bacteria, *Enterococcus faecium*, which gives the process a quick start to lowering the pH. This stops the damaging (bad) bacteria and other spoilage micro-organisms from slowly destroying the nutritive value of your silage and making it less palatable for your stock. Grevillia Ag's research shows that adding *Enterococcus faecium* can almost halve the time taken to stop the spoilage bacteria which their trial work shows will have a major impact on the quality of silage and therefore its economic value. Si-Lac inoculants contain all the bacteria you need to get the best results and we would urge farmers to check the label of products to ensure they get what they expect.

Si-Lac Extra, is the preservative option recommended for maize silage and where heating at feed out or face management are issues, contains *Lactobacillus buchneri* which stops the silage heating up once it is re-opened after ensiling. Grevillia Ag's unique fresh culture system allows this bacteria to work much quicker than normal (normally 60 days or longer) and in fact works so quickly and so well that we can and do use it for high moisture hay (up to 25% moisture) to stop it from heating and going mouldy. ●

**Article and ad supplied by Grevillia Ag*

SI-LAC

extra

Silage & Hay Inoculant

For the ultimate performance in your maize, silage or hay

- Fresh culture bacteria
- Fast fermentation
- Stops heating at feedout
- More digestible protein, greater dry matter yield and greater energy yields
- Bale hay with up to 25% crop moisture
- Long tank life
- No animal rejection

Customer Service

North Island
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South: 027 284 1425

South Island
North: 027 284 1440
South: 027 284 1401



SCAN ME



grevilliaag.com.au

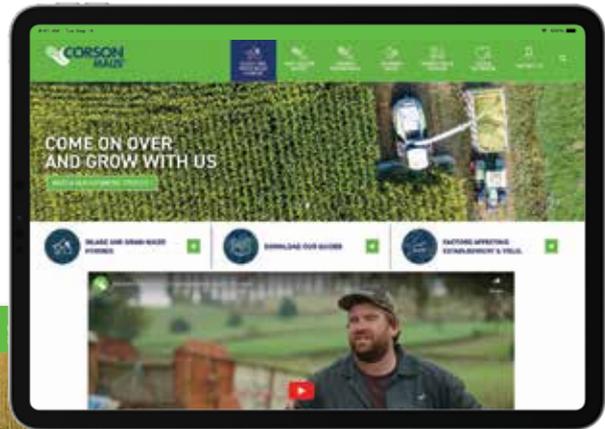
Website and Publications

At Corson Maize our aim is to help support every stage of the maize growing process – from hybrid selection through to harvest.

As a result of this focus, we encourage growers, and the retailers who sell our seed, to reach out to one of our passionate and dedicated Sales Agronomists for advice specific to their maize requirements. In addition to our knowledgeable sales team, we have several online resources to provide growers and industry personnel with up-to-date information helping to make better decisions on farm.

WEBSITE - CORSONMAIZE.CO.NZ

An extensive resource for maize growers, people considering their maize-growing options and industry personnel. From the easy-to-follow Corson Maize hybrid selector, standard practices at key milestones of the season, pest, disease, weed identification and much more, it's the go-to resource for maize growers.



CROP SCOUTING GUIDE

In addition to our online resources, we have a Crop Scouting Guide available to help you with checking your crop. You can find this guide by scanning the QR code to the right where you will be able to read and/or download the publication or access our other online resources. Alternatively, you can access corsonmaize.co.nz or request a copy from your local Sales Agronomist.



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