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**THE EFFECT OF CUTTING HEIGHT  
ON THE PRODUCTIVITY AND FEEDING VALUE  
OF CORN HYBRIDS FOR SILAGE**

Corn – the basic silage culture in Ukraine. Corn silage along with the hay and haylage is the basis of the winter ration cattle. Increasing of fodder value of corn silage depends on increasing the proportion of cobs, which are the most nutritious part of the plant. And increasing the protein content is predetermined increase in the proportion of leaves, in which it contains two to three times more than in stems.

On average for 2012–2014 the largest share of cobs and low cut, and high cut was in hybrid of Khmeltsky. In our studies it was marked a marked increase in the protein content on 0,89–1,05 % with increasing cutting height. Cutting height affected larger on content of crude fiber: in the hybrid Khmeltsky he declined on 1,93 %, hybrid Kitsmanky 215 SV – on 2,71%, hybrid DN Zlata – on 2,29 %. Also, with an increase in the cut there is a tendency to an increase in the green mass of the crude oil and BES. From the studied hybrids, regardless of the height of cut the best chemical composition of green mass had the hybrid DN Zlata.

So, in the conditions of southern part of Forest-Steppe Western during low cutting maximum yield of dry matter provided to hybrid DN Zlata – 12,8 t/ha. Mowing at the height of the fourth internodes reduced the dry matter yield of maize hybrids on 16–21 % compared to the low cut. However, raising the cutting height increases the proportion of cobs in the yield of green mass by 6,7–8,6 % and improves the chemical composition of green mass.