



# AGRIBUSINESS NEWS

## SILAGE

Fourth of July and silage harvest come together each year at GCI Farms. The farm grows over 300 acres of silage corn for the cattle to eat during the year. The silage corn has been developed to produce quality corn with a large amount of foliage in order to create the product we refer to as silage. GCI hires the Yoder Family Harvesting crew to come help cut the silage each year because it is important to cut, transport, and store the silage quickly. The Yoders travel to different farms, provide custom harvesting, and they are very efficient. Each year, their crew arrives around the week of July 4th when the corn is at its peak and the foliage is still green.

Cut corn is considered silage when it is cut and put up in airtight conditions so it ferments creating a high sugar con-

tent. As the Yoder crew cuts the corn, the GCI crew transports it by dump truck to the silage pits at Joe Kennedy Farm and Rogers Farm. The silage is then packed firmly and covered with plastic to create the airtight conditions by the GCI farm crew. Joe Kennedy Farm sealed 3,755 tons and Rogers Farm sealed 5,000 tons --- a combined total of approximately 17,310,000 pounds of feed, all while battling the wet weather from rain which made very muddy and boggy conditions for the drivers. When the Yoder family rolls out from the fields, the silage is put up for the year. The cattle will delight on the sweet corn silage as the primary base ingredient for feed rations for the dairy and beef cattle.

