**OBJECTIVE**

The objective of this study was to describe chop length, dry matter and density of corn and wheat silage structures in California Dairies.

**METHODS**

- Three density samples were taken at six ft from the bottom of the silage structure and two samples at six ft from the top. Density samples were obtained with the Dairy One core density sampler. Density was expressed as dry matter (DM) and as fed (AF). As fed density indicates porosity (resistance to air penetration) and may be a better indicator of silage preservation than DM density. Densities were compared with paired t-test (T and B) and chi-square test (DM and AF).
- Dry matter from the density core samples was determined with a microwave oven.
- Chop length of forage was visually determined using a measuring tape.

**RESULTS: Density**

- **CORN**
  - Top Left: 66.7% (n=13)
  - Top Right: 76.9% (n=15)
  - Bottom Left: 44.0% (n=25)
  - Bottom Center: 12.0% (n=25)
  - Bottom Right: 45.8% (n=24)

- **WHEAT**
  - Top Left: 5% (n=9)
  - Top Right: 0% (n=9)
  - Bottom Left: 21% (n=16)
  - Bottom Center: 63% (n=16)
  - Bottom Right: 31% (n=16)

**SUMMARY**

The units (DM or AF) and sample location (B and T) need to be accounted for when interpreting silage density results. There are opportunities to improve silage packing density in California dairies.