

# Corn Refuge Study – 2008

**Planted:** May 15, 2008  
**Harvested:** October 27, 2008  
**Population:** 32,500 seeds/A.  
**Rows:** Four 30" rows  
**Previous Crop:** Corn

**Tillage:** Chisel  
**Herbicide:** Degree Xtra Roundup Original Max  
**Insecticide:** Aztec

RAINFALL	
April	1.88 in.
May	6.41 in.
June	4.44 in.
July	7.05 in.
August	0.91 in.
Total	20.69 in.

**Purpose:** In this study we compared BECK 5616VT3 alone and with Aztec to a blend of various percentages of refuge within the bag (BECK 5616RR with Poncho 1250). The concepts of refuge in a bag and the potential for reduced refuge in the future have not been approved by the EPA for normal field production.

Brand	Harvested Population	Test* Weight	Percent Moisture	Bushels* Per Acre	Bu/A Advantage vs. 100% VT3
<b>BECK 5616VT3 Control (No Refuge)</b>	<b>32,000</b>	<b>56.0</b>	<b>21.0</b>	<b>216.5</b>	
BECK 5616VT3 with Aztec Insecticide (No Refuge)	32,000	56.0	20.6	217.4	+0.9
<b>95/5 BLEND</b>					
BECK 5616VT3 / 5616RR with Poncho 1250	32,500	56.0	20.5	210.9	-5.6
BECK 5616VT3 / 5616RR with Poncho 1250 / Aztec	32,000	56.0	20.3	212.3	-4.2
<b>90/10 BLEND</b>					
BECK 5616VT3 / 5616RR with Poncho 1250	29,500	56.0	20.7	196.9	-19.6
BECK 5616VT3 / 5616RR with Poncho 1250 / Aztec	31,000	56.0	20.6	200.7	-15.8
<b>80/20 BLEND</b>					
BECK 5616VT3 / 5616RR with Poncho 1250	29,000	56.0	20.7	195.2	-21.3
BECK 5616VT3 / 5616RR with Poncho 1250 / Aztec	29,000	56.0	20.8	198.1	-18.4

\*Bushels per acre and test weight corrected to 15% moisture.

**Summary:** This study's results indicate that as we increased the blend percentage of refuge corn, yields declined. 95/5 blend yielded 4-5 Bu./A. less, 90/10 blend yielded 15-19 Bu./A. less, and the 80/20 blend yielded 18-21 Bu./A. less than BECK 5616VT3 alone. Insecticide on all blends increased yield by an average of 0.9-3.8 Bu./A.

Refuge reduction to 5% or 10% levels has not yet been approved by EPA, nor has mixing 20% refuge within the traited corn been approved. Until then, farmers should identify the best refuge product for their environment which may not always be the same genetic family as their traited corn hybrid.