



## Do farmers sell other parts of the corn other than the ears? Which parts and for how much?

Farmers do sell other parts of the corn plant besides the grain/ears, mainly as **stover** (stalks + leaves), silage (whole chopped plant), and sometimes cobs, with values typically quoted per ton rather than per bushel.<sup>[1]</sup> <sup>[2]</sup>

### Corn stover (stalks and leaves)

- Corn stover can be baled and sold for livestock bedding, low-quality feed, or as biomass for bioenergy and industrial uses.<sup>[3]</sup> <sup>[4]</sup> <sup>[1]</sup>
- Extension and bioenergy sources commonly value harvested stover in roughly the **\$30–\$60 per dry ton** range at the farm gate, depending on hay/forage prices, nutrient removal value, and local demand.<sup>[5]</sup> <sup>[6]</sup> <sup>[7]</sup>

### Whole-plant corn silage

- When the entire above-ground plant is chopped and sold as silage (grain + stover), it is priced by the ton of as-fed material, often using a multiple of grain price.<sup>[8]</sup> <sup>[9]</sup> <sup>[10]</sup>
- Recent extension estimates place standing corn silage around **\$27–\$50 per ton as-fed**, depending on grain price, yield, and nutrient value removed from the field.<sup>[9]</sup> <sup>[10]</sup> <sup>[8]</sup>

### Corn cobs

- Corn cobs can be fractionated and sold into niche markets for blasting media, pet bedding, absorbents, and other industrial products.<sup>[11]</sup> <sup>[12]</sup> <sup>[13]</sup>
- Processed cob products (ground and graded) retail at roughly **\$25–\$35 per 40–50 lb bag** in small quantities (equivalent to several hundred dollars per ton), but the raw cob value to a farmer is much lower and highly location-dependent because processors must clean, grind, and package the material.<sup>[12]</sup> <sup>[11]</sup>

### How common is non-grain selling?

- Only a minority of U.S. corn stover is currently removed and sold; most residue is left on the field for soil protection and nutrient cycling.<sup>[14]</sup> <sup>[2]</sup>
- Where there is a nearby dairy, feedlot, or biomass user, selling stover or silage can be a meaningful secondary revenue stream, but growers must weigh that against lost residue and fertilizer value.

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3. [https://www.canr.msu.edu/corn/uploads/files/E-3354 WCAG 2.0.pdf](https://www.canr.msu.edu/corn/uploads/files/E-3354%20WCAG%202.0.pdf)
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7. [https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2024-03/beto-2023-billion-ton-report\\_5-agriculture.pdf](https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2024-03/beto-2023-billion-ton-report_5-agriculture.pdf)
8. <https://cropsandsoils.extension.wisc.edu/pricing-corn-silage-estimating-the-value-of-the-2025-crop/>
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10. <https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/pricing-standing-corn-silage>
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15. <https://farmdocdaily.illinois.edu/2024/07/corn-and-soybeans-economics-in-2024-and-2025-back-to-the-new-old-normal.html>
16. <https://blogs.cornell.edu/nwny-dairy-livestock-field-crops/2025/07/02/crop-alert-pricing-corn-silage/>
17. <https://www.accio.com/plp/corn-cob-blasting-abrasive>
18. <https://advancedbiofuelsusa.info/corn-and-soybean-prices-drop-8-to-begin-2024-and-the-epa-is-partly-to-blame>
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20. <https://www.alibaba.com/showroom/corn-cob-blasting-grain.html>