Pellet quality 2012/2013

Posted by FirepotPete - 11 Dec 2012 02:40

I guess this is as good a place as any to start a thread about pellet quality. Now that a lot of us have had to go to burning pellets at least mixed with corn I think we need to share our experience with different pellets.

I haven't really burned pellets since my first year with the stove but with corn prices I'm going to mix, I just love how the corn burns and how it's easy to clean and move with my vacuum system, where pellets take a beating trying to move them with it.

Past years I've used several from Marth Industries and most were good, the quality of each was related to the price, higher priced better pellet. Nothing bad from Marth that I remember, at least not for the price.

Pennington Premium, bought from Home Depot, worst pellets I ever bought.

Uncle Jed's Cold remedy from the Wisconsin pellet Nazi. As bad as Pennington, just cheaper.

This year to start off to mix I had some Marth left over and mixed. Last week I got some from Fleet Farm here in Green Bay. Wood Fiber Inc. from Niagara, WI. Hardwood pellets with a PFI rating, Fines

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Re: Pellet quality 2012/2013

Posted by FirepotPete - 28 Dec 2012 00:00

I saw you had posted that earlier. It's helpful, but the site asks people that comment to leave what type of stove they are using and I haven't seen one comment yet that has that info. Here most of us use a multi-fuel stove/furnace and whether mixing pellets or burning them straight it seems would be more useful for us to discuss pellet quality.

I also wonder about some of the comments/ratings. I'll give you an example. Go look at Vulcan brand. I know some guys up north that use them being that the mill is right down the road, they all like them as well as any pellet they can get. Then the one review states they are crap, made of green sawdust and the guy has had two chimney fires from them this year already. Says nothing but creosote. I don't know if he's trying to burn pellets in a wood stove with a chimney or what the deal is but something isn't right

with his story. If I didn't know better I would never try those pellets from his review.

Anywho, any information is better than nothing. I just have a certain trust of the people who use this site and was wondering their experience with different pellets.

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Re: Pellet quality 2012/2013
Posted by command_z - 28 Dec 2012 00:26

FirepotPete wrote:

Anywho, any information is better than nothing. I just have a certain trust of the people who use this site and was wondering their experience with different pellets.

I agree very much with this statement. We are using stoves that are a slightly different animal so results could differ. I basically look at these for cleanliness, pellet size, availability. I guess it's a starting point in a way. I, like you, are unsure regarding the chimney fire thing. Doesn't add up.

I think we should continue with our own reports on pellets. I was not trying to suggest we use that site instead. We have always trusted each other here and know that there are not other motives for ratings.

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Re: Pellet quality 2012/2013
Posted by jawquin - 28 Dec 2012 00:54

Somerset's in a Bixby = I'll not fool with corn again.

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Re: Pellet quality 2012/2013
Posted by FirepotPete - 28 Dec 2012 02:34

Heck another site is just more info, especially if a brand comes into an area that it's never been before.

When I first started burning I had several sites bookmarked that had pellet ratings, they've pretty much disappeared or are so inactive that the information is out of date. That site you posted seems very active and will be of great reference I'm sure.

The best thing here is we know that the people posting are active at the time, so if a brand that usually is pretty good has some problems we probably would hear it quicker here.

I still don't trust PFI's ratings, I'll listen to real life burners before a group of pellet manufacturers that pay to have their products rated.

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Re: Pellet quality 2012/2013

Posted by johnlb - 28 Dec 2012 10:39

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Couple of days ago I started using pellets from a new pallet.

They are Indecks and I have been using them for three years (about the only thing carried in this area).

OMG these thing are the dirtiest,sootiest burning things I have ever seen. Foul smelling smoke just burns your nose.

The heat output seem OK. going to be a long winter as this bunch should get me through the season...

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Re: Pellet quality 2012/2013

Posted by upnort - 28 Dec 2012 14:12

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Good Morning. Brrrrr! That said I burn a mix of corn/pellets. For all the comments on Pellets I would like to add that what is missing is the way it is stored, mixture level, and wht I think is missed most is the area you live in. As an example of what I mean, the same mix can burn during the day VG and then go down on hear output. (Look at the flame without changing the setting) So the thing that pops into my mind is the change in Humidity. Nice and dry outside good h eat, then snow/rain comes in and heat goes down. (Watch the flame). This I believe goes to the heart of storage. I store my pellets/corn in the outside garage where I mix my fuel. I have the fuel up on pellets, dry, no actual water from floor or otherwise. I have a humidity/temp gauge and notice the change from dry to more humid at times. I carry themix to the house, store for about a week and most times burns well (less humidity in house)But as soon as humidity rises outside with outside air intake and rise and lower of temps affect the burn. I think this should be taken into account when assessing the pellet quality. Thank You.

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Re: Pellet quality 2012/2013

Posted by command_z - 30 Dec 2012 17:16

I have been able to make a comparison on clinkers. With Indeck I get a fine light ash that will not form a clinker. I have to scoop the ash out. The Somersets have a heavier ash and form a clinker strong enough that I can remove with kitchen tongs. Quite a difference. I wonder if the difference is in the wood or the binders.

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Re: Pellet quality 2012/2013

Posted by tfgrower - 30 Dec 2012 17:24

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command_z wrote:

I have been able to make a comparison on clinkers. With Indeck I get a fine light ash that will not form a clinker. I have to scoop the ash out. The Somersets have a heavier ash and form a clinker strong enough that I can remove with kitchen tongs. Quite a difference. I wonder if the difference is in the wood or the binders.

I don't think they use binders, just natural lignin that binds when pressure heats it. Go Bears and Packers

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Re: Pellet quality 2012/2013

Posted by FirepotPete - 30 Dec 2012 21:07

Go Bears and Packers[/quote]

LOL, Always a first from Bear's fans. Oh well, cheering for the Pack will only last another 3-4 hours and then you can go back to normal.

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Re: Pellet quality 2012/2013

Posted by tfgrower - 31 Dec 2012 02:40

FirepotPete wrote:

Go Bears and Packers

LOL, Always a first from Bear's fans. Oh well, cheering for the Pack will only last another 3-4 hours and then you can go back to normal.
[/quote]

Who now Pete?

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