

**Leafhopper Damage On Alfalfa Predicted**

Potato leafhopper damage on alfalfa has been very slight up to this time. There were many adult leafhoppers present in early July, but the recent wet weather has hindered their development and build-up in numbers, according to the extension service.

Warm, dry weather in the remaining part of July and the first half of August will favor the build-up of the leafhopper insect population. The immature leafhopper nymphs (yellowish-green color) are the damaging forms to alfalfa. The adult forms are slightly larger and of a more distinct yellow color.

New cuttings of alfalfa coming on during the mid-July to

mid-August period will be quite vulnerable to damage. Leafhopper damage must be prevented, as the crop will not respond after the injury has occurred. Spray when the new growth is 4-6" tall with 25% Methoxychlor emulsion at the rate of 3 pints per acre. At least 20 to 25 gallons of water per acre is necessary for adequate coverage. Do not apply spray closer than seven days

to harvest.

Because adequate soil moisture levels will assure a heavy third cutting, our recommendation is to apply the protective spray so that the stunted and yellow-green growth damage does not develop in the third cutting. Leafhopper problems usually disappear after late August.



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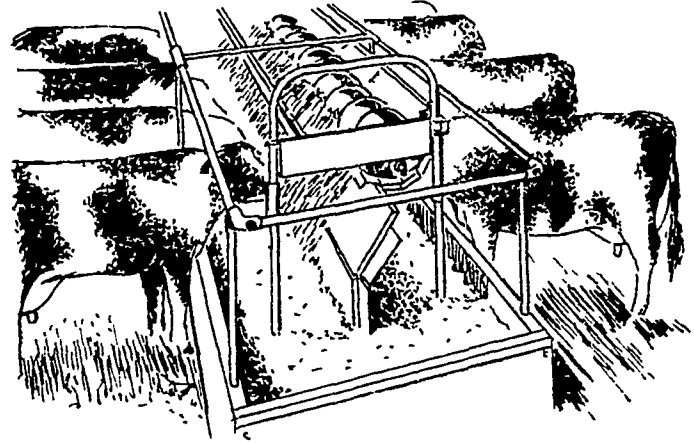
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