

Facts Dairymen Should Know

(Continued from Page 17)
chop material cost: hundreds of pounds of milk

When the pasture dries up in mid to late summer and when green chopping, watch out for the weeds. The least they can do is give a bad flavor to the milk and the worst thing may be sick or dead cows.

Sample Forages At Harvest

Best use of forage testing and feed programming can be made when forages are sampled close to harvest. This enables updating of feeding programs throughout the summer and early fall months. These are critical months in a dairy herd especially one with a lot of fall freshening cows. The nutrition and management of cows during this period of calving appears to strongly influence the subsequent health and reproductive status of the cows.

Prior sampling also can reduce the time required for development of feeding programs requested during the remainder of the stored feeding season. Most cuttings of hay have already been completed. Hays are ready for sampling as soon as they are safe to store without curing aids. Sample grasses or mixed mainly grass hays should be separated from legume or mixed mainly legume ones. First cutting forages should be sampled separately from aftermath cuttings which may be combined for sampling purposes within major forage types.

Perennial or small grain silages that are being fed can be sampled now. Why wait until winter? In fact forage that is sufficiently low in moisture to not cause a silo seepage problem may be sampled as it is ensiled. This means that material to be ensiled at 70-72 per cent moisture or less can be sampled as the silo is filled.

Take sub-samples from loads throughout silo-filling. Freeze them and submit a composite sample of these upon completion of the operation. An alternative is to submit a sample of silage taken midway through harvest or at the end of harvest, if one wants a greater margin of safety in his feeding.

Numerous forage testing programs are available to farmers, including The Pennsylvania State University program. Sample containers, hay samples and detailed information on forage testing and feed program requests may be obtained at our county extension office.

All farmers should at least get standard tests on their forages. These include moisture, protein, fiber and energy. Farmers with above average crop yields or animal health problems also should get mineral tests routinely. Several additional tests also may be obtained in problem situations through the Penn State Forage Testing program. Put forage tests to use with professional feed programming. This also is available from several sources including Penn State.

Results of Blueboy Wheat

Blueboy is a soft, red winter wheat variety selected as a line from crosses involving four parents. It was released by the North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station in 1966.

The variety is being grown quite extensively in states where the winters are relatively mild. Based on research trials in Pennsylvania, it appears sufficiently winter-hardy to be grown in the Central and Southeastern counties in the state.

Blueboy did not yield well in Crawford and Westmoreland county research trials in 1968, averaging about 15 bushels below Redcoat. In the same year, it averaged about 1 1/2 bushels better than Redcoat in Centre,

Columbia, Franklin and Lancaster counties in 1969. In the same four research trials, Blueboy averaged 8 bushels better than Redcoat. Comparisons of Blueboy and Redcoat by farmers, who top dressed nitrogen, found Blueboy yielding 10 to 11 bushels higher than Redcoat.

Blueboy has a semi-short, stiff straw. It has shown excellent resistance to lodging. The leaves have a bluish coat until maturity. The variety is four to six days later than Redcoat.

Seed of Blueboy is somewhat smaller on the average than other wheats commonly grown in Pennsylvania. It will clean out 5 to 10 percent more small seed than other varieties. Bushel weight is usually three to four pounds lower than Redcoat or Redmilk.

The variety is very susceptible

to mildew and Hessian fly. The variety should be planted after fly free date, October 10 for southeastern Pennsylvania.

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Blueboy should be planted on the better drained, more fertile fields. The pH should be around 6.5. There should be an adequate supply of phosphorus and potash in the soil or applied at planting time. In the absence of a soil test, apply 20 pounds of nitrogen, 40 pounds of phosphate and 40 pounds potash on fertile soils. On less fertile fields, apply 20-80-80. In the early spring, top dress with 40 to 60 pounds of nitrogen.

Drill five pecks of cleaned seed per acre. Lodging has been observed with seeding rates of six to eight pecks when top-dressed with high rates of nitrogen.



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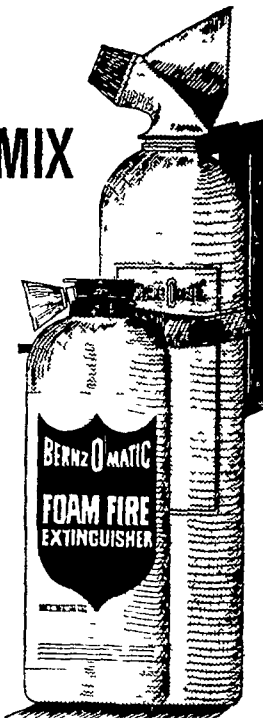
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