



There's a saying that toads around the house mean bad luck, but actually they're very helpful in a garden since they feed on grubs, insects and slugs.

Farmers want effort for mutual understanding

READ LANCASTER FARMING FOR FULL MARKET REPORTS

CHICAGO, Ill. - As less than five percent of the U.S. population, farmers today

constitute a minority group. And, as other minority groups, they are searching for ways to make their voices heard, to gain greater recognition. Many farmers feel that politicians, consumer groups and government officials are making decisions without the proper input from farmers themselves. Many believe that the rules and regulations being formulated today are not necessarily in the best interests of agriculture.

To examine ways in which this trend can be changed - so that farmers can speak out and give their voices more strength - International Harvester invited nine representative U.S. farmers to a farm forum discussion on this topic. They were from different parts of the country and had varying sizes and types of operations. They agreed that farmers are not speaking out as effectively as they might on behalf of agriculture.

Part of the reason for this lack of communication, according to Roger Hurst, 41, a Johnson, Kansas, wheat farmer, "is that now most city people are two and three generations removed from the farm. They don't have any idea what's going on in agriculture. We as farmers have lost touch with the city people."

A.W. (Dub) Anthony, 59, of Friona, Texas, cited another problem: "The farmer is at the bottom of the totem pole. Politically we don't carry the weight in Congress we did in years past. In other words, today there are not enough votes in agriculture to have a big impact."

This lack of political representation is, of course, a major obstacle for farmers. A partial solution was offered by farmer-legislator Wayne Mixson, 53, of Marianna, Florida, who is a member of the Florida State Legislature. "If we're going to get favorable decisions for agriculture, we've got to persuade a lot of city people to vote correctly," he stated. "And how do we do that? If

we can get the facts out so the people will understand that the progress and the growth of agriculture is related to the value of the dollar, is related to employment in our country, is related to inflation, then I think we can make progress. Let's give the urban people truth on which to base their decisions and their votes."

The nine farmers agreed that a focus on world food shortages has placed American agriculture more in the public eye. "Most farmers have opened their eyes and learned that they have to look beyond their own farm gate," commented Herb Korthuis, 40, who raises vegetables in Custer, Washington. "We're no longer in a little corner all by ourselves. What we do as farmers affects not only America but the whole world. Now we've got to get together and go out and communicate with others."

Agreement came from Lloyd Mosdal, 47, who raises wheat, barley and cattle in Rapelje, Montana: "There's no question, we've got to quit talking to ourselves. And I think the new Agriculture Council of America (ACA) is working in this direction. For example, ACA has a telephone hotline where consumers can call and talk to farmers. They can actually get the facts from farmers themselves." ACA is an organization of farmers and agri-businessmen dedicated to telling agriculture's story to non-farm people.

In addition to the actions being taken by various organizations, the farmers discussed efforts that individual farmers can take to

tell the farm story. "There really are lots of things you can do as individuals," said Steve Weber, 27, a Geneseo, Illinois, farmer who is a member of the Advisory Committee of ACA. "It may not be too hard to convince someone if you just take the time to talk to him. For example, there's a cab driver in New York City who became a member of the Agriculture Council of America because I talked him into it on the way to the airport."

"I've spent considerable time with a slide set I've put together - showing it to schools, service clubs, state organizations and even several national organizations," added Charles Call. "I vary the dialogue, but the message stays pretty much the same."

Jim Tanner, 23, of Ivyland, Pennsylvania, explained how he communicates with consumers. Tanner and his father have their own retail dairy operation on their farm. "We deal directly with many city people at our dairy," he said. "Most of them are curious about the operation. So sometimes we let them come in and watch us milk the cows. With a little conversation, they begin to realize that we have our problems too. And I would guess that most of them feel we deserve the prices we're getting."

The nine farmers all agreed that farmers and consumers share many of the same concerns, and that it is important to maintain open lines of communication in order to foster a mutual understanding.

Dual crops possible

UNIVERSITY PARK - No-tillage corn can be grown simultaneously with perennial legumes such as birdsfoot trefoil or crownvetch by using herbicides to "slow down" the legumes, declared a weed scientist

from Penn State University. The herbicides will suppress the legumes while allowing no-tillage corn to mature, stated Dr. Nathan L. Hartwig of the Agricultural Experiment Station at the University.

After recovering from suppression by herbicides, the legumes maintain a cover crop for pasture, silage, or mulch, the Penn State agronomist said. He indicated herbicides will suppress a legume sod or

smoothbrome grass at corn planting time, while allowing adequate recovery of the legume or grass by Fall.

Of 18 herbicide treatments in 1974 and 1975, corn stands and yields were better in birdsfoot trefoil than in crownvetch or smoothbrome grass. Hartwig found the trefoil was most easily suppressed and, in some cases, was completely killed by some herbicide treatments. Under ideal conditions, the sod recovers after suppression to provide winter cover and a living mulch for next year's crop. This system does not work with alfalfa, he claimed, since alfalfa is too competitive.

SILO HEAT LOSS

SILO HEATING CAUSES SEVERE ECONOMIC LOSSES IN CORN-SILAGE, GRASS-SILAGE, HAYLAGE AND HIGH MOISTURE CORN.

WHAT ARE THESE LOSSES?

- +LOSS OF ENERGY (CALORIES) HEAT IS ENERGY!
- +LOSS OF VITAMIN A-D-E-K AND OTHERS
- MOST VITAMINS ARE DESTROYED IN TEMPERATURES ABOVE 110 DEGREES. UNTREATED SILAGE WILL RANGE FROM A MINIMUM 130 DEGREES TO A MAXIMUM OF OVER 200 DEGREES.
- +LOSS OF DIGESTIBILITY OF PROTEIN. THE HOTTER THE SILAGE GETS, THE LOWER THE PROTEIN VALUE.
- +LOSS OF PALATABILITY BY POOR FERMENTATION, CAN EASILY REDUCE RATE OF GAIN OR MILK PRODUCTION BY 25 PERCENT.
- +LOSS OF SOLUBLE NUTRIENTS BY SEEPAGE
- HEATING RELEASES JUICE IN THE SILO IN THE SAME WAY AS COOKING MEAT AND VEGETABLES.
- +SILAGE UNLOADS HARDER AND SLOWER BECAUSE EXCESS JUICING MATS IT DOWN AND ALSO RESULTS IN HARDER FREEZING.

WHEN DO THESE LOSSES HAPPEN?

IMMEDIATELY AFTER FILLING THE SILO. THE FIRST 3 TO 7 DAYS ARE MOST CRITICAL DURING WHICH TIME THE HEATING REACHES ITS PEAK.

WHAT CAUSES THIS HEATING?

OXIDATION FROM THE AIR THAT IS BLOWN INTO THE SILAGE AND TRAPPED DURING FILLING AND THE OXYGEN CONTAINED IN THE PLANT. THE DRIER THE SILAGE, THE COARSER (AND HARDER) IT CHOPS, THE POORER IT PACKS, THE MORE AIR IS TRAPPED, AND THE HOTTER IT GETS.

WHY?

OXYGEN IS WHAT CAUSES ANY FOOD TO SPOIL AND IT MUST BE ELIMINATED FROM THE SILAGE BEFORE PRESERVATION CAN TAKE PLACE. IN THE NORMAL PROCESS OF ELIMINATION A CHEMICAL REACTION OCCURS IN WHICH OXYGEN COMBINES WITH READILY AVAILABLE STARCHES AND SUGARS TO LITERALLY BURN ITSELF OUT.

DOES OXYGEN FREE SEALED STORAGE PREVENT THIS?

OXYGEN FREE STORAGE IS NOT OXYGEN FREE UNTIL AFTER THIS OXIDATION PERIOD IS OVER. COMMON SENSE TELLS YOU THAT JUST AS MUCH AIR IS TRAPPED DURING THE FILLING PROCESS REGARDLESS OF TYPE OF STORAGE. THE SAME THING HAPPENS AS EXPLAINED ABOVE. THE DIFFERENCE IS THAT ONCE THE FILLER OPENING IS CLOSED AND THE SILO IS ACTUALLY SEALED, NO ADDITIONAL AIR CAN ENTER. SURFACE SPOILAGE AND SILO LEAKAGE IS NOT A PROBLEM.

STOP THESE LOSSES USE SILO KING

WHY DOES SILO-KING WORK?

SILO-KING CONTAINS A POTENT COMBINATION OF THE SAME ANTI-OXIDANTS USE TO PRESERVE HUNDREDS OF FOOD ITEMS IN OUR SUPER MARKETS. SILO-KING ALSO CONTAINS A POTENT COMBINATION OF FOOD GRADE EXZYMES AND FLAVORS.

THIS COMBINATION OF ANTI-OXIDANTS AND ENZYMES RESULTS IN A MUCH GREATER PRESERVATIVE EFFECT.

THEY ABSORB THE ATMOSPHERIC AND HYDROLYTIC OXYGEN ENERGY IN THE SILAGE TO PREVENT THE INITIAL OXIDATION WHICH CAUSES THE HEATING AND THE LOSSES.

THEY ALSO UTILIZE MOISTURE AVAILABLE IN THE SILAGE TO HELP SYNTHESIZE MORE SOLUBLE SUGARS WHICH HELP PRODUCE A HIGH QUALITY, SWEET SMELLING SILAGE WITH EXCEPTIONAL PALATABILITY.

BY REDUCING THE LEVEL OF OXIDATION, TEMPERATURE OF THE SILAGE IS MAINTAINED IN A RANGE OF 100 TO 110 DEGREES.

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