

Mellott named alfalfa champion

MERCERSBURG, Pa. - Mellott received the Howard Mellott and son, Steve, of RD2, Mercersburg, have been named recipients of the State Alfalfa Champion Award for 1976.

Mellott received the award, a plaque, during ceremonies at the recent Forage, Seed, and Corn Conference held on the Penn State University Campus.

According to Dr. John E. Baylor, Extension agronomist at Penn State, the Mellotts have been growing alfalfa for 30 years. It is primarily fed as hay crop silage as well as hay.

The winning entry was a field of WL311 alfalfa and Pennlate orchardgrass mixed, predominately alfalfa. It was calculated that the field produced 8.2 tons per acre of hay equivalent; 2,790 pounds of crude protein, and 9,110 pounds of total digestible nutrients per acre.

This past year, a hay sample of alfalfa fed to their 70-cow Holstein herd, tested 21 per cent crude protein and 64 per cent total digestible nutrients. A similar silage sample tested 22.8 per cent crude protein and 65 per cent total digestible nutrients.

The Mellotts grow 67 acres of alfalfa, nine acres of corn, and 15 acres of small grains.

Their cow herd this past year averaged 16,600 pounds of milk and 628 pounds of butterfat.



Officers of the Pennsylvania Association of County Agricultural Agents for 1977, elected at the organization's recent annual meeting on The Pennsylvania State University Campus are, from left: Thomas E. Piper, Adams County, secretary-treasurer; M. M. Smith, Lancaster County, vice president; and Orville A. Yoder, Bradford County, president.

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- E. Have adequate time to make any changes in crops and fertilizer programs that might be needed.
- F. In some soils, fall plowing is advantageous and applying fertilizer before plowing puts it into the root zone where it will be useable by the plants.

Restores Poor Alfalfa Yield

"I am farming 75 acres of alfalfa which is 4 years old. The winter 1972-73 growth was light and ragged and I considered plowing it out. The first cutting in April, 1973 made 500 bales. Then Im-Pruv-All Organic Micro-Nutrients were applied right after the first cutting. (No major fertilizers were applied due to shortage.) The second cutting in June, 1973 made 1200 bales. The third cutting in July, 1973 made 1700 bales. The light areas are stooling and filling in and growth looks strong. These second and third cuttings produced over 200 bales more hay per acre than the 1972 cuttings."

Mr. Duarte now plans to leave this alfalfa in at least another year. Since the water penetration is much greater than before application and the soil has taken on a loamy texture, this land will definitely be Im-Pruv-All treated next year and thereafter because it is the difference between a meager profit and an excellent profit on this hay operation.

Thomas J. Duarte
Newman, California

UNIVERSITY RECORDS SYSTEM SHOWS WISCONSIN DAIRYMAN HIS IM-PRUV-ALL PROFITS

On December 7, 1971, I wrote you reporting how Im-Pruv-All on silage was helping me make more money. You printed my story in your winter 1972 paper. It is April 16, 1973, and I would like to expand my story.

In the past years, my Harvestore would run empty about the first of March, and my baled hay would be gone by April 1st. I usually had to buy all my feed in April and May. It's hard to make money that way. Last year (1972), I built a new 70 foot silo, so I could put up more hay silage and corn silage. It's sure made a big difference.

I use the computer farm record system (ARC) available from the University of Wisconsin. It shows that in 1971, with milk at \$5.42, I had a return over feed costs of \$464.20 per cow. In 1972, with milk at \$5.54, my return per cow jumped to \$693.80. That's \$229.60 per cow.

It should be even better in 1973. The first three months this year, I've

marketed 220,746 lbs. of milk, compared to 185,977 the same months last year. That's a monthly increase of 11,589 lbs. of milk from my farm . . . and I'm not out of feed yet. It looks like I'll have plenty. I'm also spending even less money at the feed mill than last year. 1972 was a difficult year to get crops up here in Wisconsin. It rained and rained. I had over 30 acres of hay I never got to because of the weather.

I've used your Mineral and Vitamin Program for some time. I'm now getting ready to treat my first field with your Balanced Fertility Program. The Im-Pruv-All Programs may sound fishy to people who haven't used them, but it seems to work for me. I want my Purebred Holstein herd to do as well as they can.

STEVE LAMBERSON (& SONS)
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Whitehall, Wisconsin 54773

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