

Hay preservatives discussed at crops meeting

By LAUREL SCHAEFFER
Berks County Reporter
LEESPORT, Pa. - Pennsylvania's annual hay crop has an estimated value of \$173 million, according to Lynn Hoffman, superin-

tendant of Penn State's Rock Springs research farm. The University's farm manager spoke at the Berks County Ag Center recently as a part of the Crops and Soils Day activities.

Hoffman noted that approximately 1,900,000 acres are annually devoted to hay in Pennsylvania. Discussing the use of chemical preservatives on high moisture hay, the farm manager nevertheless maintained that the major factor in making good hay is total management.

"We need," he said, "a method to reduce the time involved in making hay." Liquid chemicals seem to be part of this answer.

A major question involved when using these liquid preservatives is where to put it on, Hoffman indicated.

Hoffman mentioned three good areas. 1. Having the spray nozzles on the hay conditioner so the hay gets sprayed as it comes off the crimper, 2. on the rake so it is applied when the hay is making its final flip, 3. the most logical place, on the

baler as the hay comes up over the pick-up and into the bale chamber.

"The uniformity of the distribution throughout the hay mass is most critical", stated Hoffman. He then went on to say that Penn State had good results with the liquid preservatives on hay up to 30 per cent moisture. The best rate he found was one per cent of the hay weight or 20 pounds per ton of hay.

"Calculating the amount of hay going through the baler at a given time to know the amount of spray to use is important," Hoffman told the audience. The importance of the uniformity of the distribution of the chemical was also noted.

In conducting experiments with the use of chemical preservatives, Hoffman kept a monitor on the heat produced by the high moisture hay when stacked in mows. "Heat may damage the protein if it is over 140 degrees F." Hoffman said.

The problems of the

compounds were also discussed in the presentation: 1. the odor involved, 2. most of the compounds are corrosive, but they had not had any problem with the working parts of the equipment at Penn State. Hoffman warned the audience, however, to be careful when handling the solutions because they can eat paint off of the equipment. Other problems are skin irritation and precision and consistency of application. Hoffman stressed the need to have the compound sprayed on the hay uniformly.

Hoffman also told the farmers that the chemical solutions change the color but not the quality of the hay. "You can't judge the hay by the color when using liquid preservatives" he said. The quality of the acid treated hay was comparable to heat treated hay. He also pointed out that the dry matter losses were decreased in the baling process when the liquid chemicals were applied.

Also noted, by the use of

feeding trials, was that the hay was accepted and the gains on the livestock were better than with the heat treated hay. The mold level in the acid treated hay was also less, but Hoffman said the heat dried hay had a higher vitamin A content.

Hoffman finished his presentation by telling the audience that field cured hay had higher losses during baling than did the acid treated hay. There were less losses during the storage and feeding processes also.

The highest losses, Hoffman said, was with the large packaging of hay such as in stacks but the acid helped to reduce those losses also. Storing round bales or stacks outside decreases the quality also, noted Hoffman.

Also presented at the Berks County Crops Day was a lecture by William McClellan, on general alfalfa weed control, weed control in corn, and Johnson grass control. Wayne Hinnish presented a lecture on lime quality, and nitrogen fertilization. Both were Penn State agronomy specialists.

Wellsville 4-H

announces winners

WELLSVILLE, Pa. - Wellsville Boots and Saddle 4-H Club announced Terri Lehigh is a county Blue Form winner and received a trophy for other achievements.

Jennifer Kristich was the top 4-H Club member of the year.

Other trophies for achievements were presented to Diane Kummel, most active first year rookie; Teresa Staullman, most club activities. Project awards went to Shelly Lehigh, 8-10 year olds; Lee Schneider, 11-12 year olds; Terri Lehigh, over 12 years. County Agent Tim Markovits judged the projects. The event was held at the Wellsville fire hall. Advisers are Judy Lehigh, Casey Schneider and Ephraim Sheffer.

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PP&L offering monthly bills

ALLENTOWN, Pa. - Customers of Pennsylvania Power & Light Company who receive their electric bills every two months are now being given the opportunity to request monthly billing.

Leon L. Nonemaker, PP & L vice president - Division Operations explained the reason for the newly adopted plan. "We recognize that rising electric bills caused by a combination of colder-than-normal weather conditions, changes in living habits and higher rates and fuel charges can cause household budgeting problems for many of our customers."

He said, "Our monthly

billing plan will not affect a customer's overall cost for the electricity used, but it will allow more manageable budgeting by letting our customers make 12 payments over a year's period instead of the current six payments. Nonemaker stressed that the new monthly billing plan is optional for bimonthly customers. He said, "Those of our customers who are satisfied with the current method of bimonthly billings will continue to be billed every other month. If we do not receive authorization from them to change over, there will be no changes in their billing procedure."

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