

Berks brassicas

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20% on the turnips. "It's working real well," Bair concluded.

"I wanted to do more with it," states Lynn Stoudt, R1, Bernville. Stoudt milks and feeds close to 100 Holsteins and Jerseys and explained his reasons for putting the brassicas in ag bags.

"I went into it because I could never grow a good crop of corn," he explains because of the poor soil on his farm. "I was also looking for an alternative to corn expense." "I especially liked the good analysis on it and the regrowth. It's as good a silage as you're ever going to get."

Stoudt planted 80 acres of rape, turnips, and some swede. He has been ensiling it in ag bags this fall and experiencing no problems with that. He lets it wilt three days and then bags it. "The bagger gives you more leeway on moisture levels," Stoudt says. "We can bag 45% to 75% moisture with no juicing," he adds.

He is also greenchopping and feeding it right away to both the milking animals and dry cows. "We're replacing some of the haylage with this," he says. "It has plenty of protein for any kind of cow," he adds and states that his herd is experiencing no health problems and milking as well as they should be.

Stoudt's crop tested slightly higher in protein than Bair's.

Like Bair, Stoudt says there was a noticeable increase in milk production when feeding the brassicas but added, as did Bair, that he could not contribute it entirely to the new forage. The butterfat in both herds basically remained the same.

Stoudt said that he did have some hesitation in his cows before they would eat the rape when he grazed a portion of it but says that now they except it.

Stoudt chisel plowed and used no herbicides when planting his crop. Although he also experienced some insect damage, his yields have been right around six tons per acre as cut, comparable to his yields of corn silage.

"It gives green chop to feed longer and definitely extends the pasture season," Stoudt concludes. He also adds that he thinks rape may be more resistant to drought than corn and seems to be more



Lane Stoudt, four-year-old daughter of Lynn Stoudt, Bernville, shows height of her father's rape crop.

Remote sensing session Tuesday

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — "Remote Sensing," an analytical tool that can help natural resource managers identify critical land and water areas from aerial or satellite photography and imagery, will be the subject of a day-long symposium at the Maryland Department of Agriculture, Annapolis, Md., on Tuesday.

The symposium is sponsored by The University of Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station (UMAES) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service (SCS).

tolerant to a low pH than many crops are.

Insects and a lack of sufficient moisture to germinate the spring plantings were the problems Stoudt faced with his crops of brassicas. He does add that he is happy with the results of his crop but might lower his acreage on this next year while adding sorghum-sudan grass instead.

"Most farmers are relatively cautious," Schaeffer states about trying novel forages. He says that further trials are being conducted and also are in the planning stages. "We're not at a point where we want to go 'whole hot' yet," he cautions but concludes that the brassicas may be the future addition to a sound forage program.

The symposium, according to its organizers, is intended to serve as a background session for local government officials, regulatory personnel, scientists and resource managers.

"Remote sensing is a tool that helps us identify and assess critical land and water areas, using data from aerial photography or from satellites," says Dr. Richard A. Weismiller, associate professor of agronomy for UMAES, and a principal organizer of the symposium.

Remote sensing may be used to monitor land-use changes, to identify crops by satellite as an aid in making soil surveys and to assess soil erosion over huge land areas, and to assess and manager water quality problems in large bodies of water such as the Chesapeake Bay.

The symposium begins at 10 a.m. in the conference room of Maryland Department of Agriculture's headquarters, 50 Harry Truman Parkway, Annapolis, Md.



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