

Minimum tillage, manure management & silage inoculant

BERKS COUNTY — New and different doesn't always mean better, as any wise farmer will tell you. But Berks County farmer Gary Stoltzfus isn't against trying new or different farming techniques if they show good potential for benefitting his overall operation.

During his years of farming, Stoltzfus has adopted several techniques that have helped him conserve soil, produce crops more efficiently and preserve the yield for maximum feeding value.

Stoltzfus is a firm believer in minimum tillage. "I'm convinced that by using minimum tillage we save a lot of water and soil," he says.

To avoid erosion problems, Stoltzfus uses a chisel plow instead of a moldboard plow whenever possible. He notes that it is particularly effective for corn ground.

The chisel plow has worked its way into Stoltzfus' farming operation in other ways.

A dairyman, the Berks County farmer each year deals with tons of manure from his herd of 120 milk cows and a similar number of young stock. He takes advantage of the manure to manage his crop production expenses.

To reduce fertilizer expense, and

utilize the nutrients in the manure, he chisels in liquid manure on his corn ground.

Stoltzfus first chiseled in liquid manure last fall. Taking advantage of the nutrients in the manure he reduced his fertilizer application. He is awaiting yield results on his 1984 corn crop to judge performance of the new fertility program.

Besides using liquid manure to fertilize his corn crop, Stoltzfus uses it to get maximum production from his alfalfa stands.

"I like to give alfalfa fields a light application late in the fall," he says. "I won't apply manure on alfalfa in the summer while the plants are growing. This helps avoid burning problems."

Each year Stoltzfus raises about 100 acres of alfalfa which he harvests as haylage and baled hay. He fills a 20x60 silo early in the season with haylage. Most of the later crop is baled during the summer. He feeds out haylage year-round so a portion of the late-season alfalfa is also used to keep the silo full.

As part of his silage management program, the Berks County dairyman uses a bacterial silage inoculant to enhance the fermentation process.



Gary Stoltzfus

"I hate to see dust flying behind the wagon," he says. "That's money left out in the field."

"I like to put up haylage at 60% to 65%, however I will put it up wetter if I have to. Using a good silage inoculant gives me some flexibility. We also used it on about 100 tons of corn silage last year," says Stoltzfus.

"A good bacterial silage inoculant helps speed up fermentation in the silo and stabilizes the crop material quicker," explains Jerry Berger, silage

specialist for Pioneer Hi-Bred. "By completing fermentation more quickly, heating, seepage and spoilage are reduced in the ensiled material."

Controlling heating in both his corn silage and haylage is a primary goal for Stoltzfus.

Heating is a big concern in a top unloading silo," he says. "When you fill and feed at the same time, the natural heating process can be a problem. We use an inoculant to reduce our heating problems and keep the haylage coming out cool."

Kaminsky gets sales post

MECHANICSBURG — Ed Kaminsky has been appointed District Sales Manager for DeKalb-Pfizer Genetics in Western Pennsylvania. Prior to this appointment; Kaminsky served as sales representative for the New Holland Co. of Ohio, and for Massey Ferguson Corporation in the northeast United States.

As District Sales Manager, Kaminsky works with approximately 100 dealers in a 37-county area.

Originally from McKeesport, Kaminsky now lives in Mechanicsburg with his wife Nancy and son Michael. Kaminsky is a graduate of Penn State with a degree in agricultural mechanization. While at Penn State, he held office in the Ag-Mech Club and was active in the choir.

DeKalb-Pfizer Genetics conducts research at 36 stations across the United States, including

Palmyra. The company also operates seed production plants at 19 locations.



Ed Kaminsky

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