



Brockett's Ag Advice

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Making Your Own 'Good Luck'

Good luck is an important part of a successful farm business. Yet, good luck often can be brought about by hard work, good planning, attention to details, and sheer determination.

Feed The Crop

Good crop producers understand that if they want to get good crop yields, they will have to feed the plants. As Sherlock Holmes used to say to Watson, "It's academic, my dear fellow." We would say, "That's as plain as the nose of your

face." Unfortunately, to many farmers, it is not that plain. Result: they have the "bad" luck of rain starting or stopping at the fence line or bad weather conditions or bad quality seed or a stand that just did not survive the winter.

The ones with "good" luck had the right amount of rain, sunshine hit just right, seeds were all good, and the stand made it thru the winter. They also took soil tests, then fed the plant what it needed. This made the plants a little more resistant to adverse weather conditions and gave those plants more strength to survive the winter. For hay crops, good crop feeding plans start soon after the first cutting is harvested. What's more, that feeding program is

coupled with an "insect watch" and control program. Why spend \$20 feeding "bugs" that you won't even harvest?

Do you want good luck in producing crops? Well, start with a soil test, move along to a sound fertilization and liming program, proceed with an insect control program, harvest the crop on time, pay attention to varieties and the response you have received from them in the past and finally, start keeping field and crop records.

Old Stands

Farmers producing hay crops should be a little more lenient with old stands. Sometimes all that stand needs is a good shot of fertilizer and lime. It is certainly cheaper to maintain this established stand than to seed a

new one. In most cases, it would mean more immediate feed per acre as well. Go out and walk over the field before condemning it to the firing squad. See if the plants are there to respond to fertilizer before tearing it up.

You can overfeed crops just as you can cows. If you don't use soil tests or don't fill out the soil test questionnaire properly, you may waste nutrients. A soil bank of nutrients is nice if you can afford it. It is not a very economical way to feed crops. The best way to run your cropping program is to test, lime, then fertilize for the yield goal your soil is capable of producing. As I said at the start of this column, those with good luck usually make a good part of that luck through management.

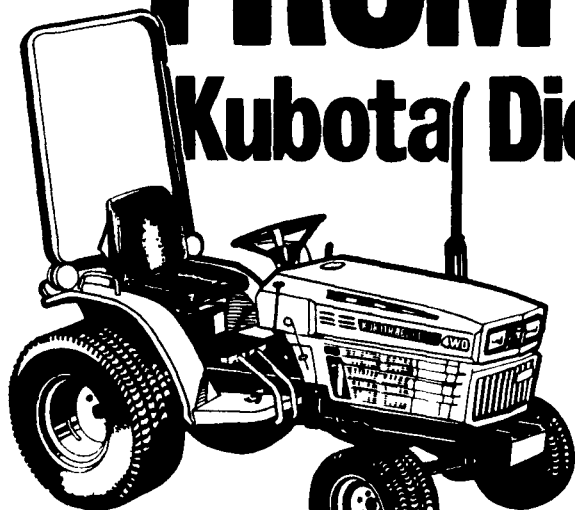
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Pioneer Announces New Wheat Variety

TIPTON, Ind. — A new, high-yielding, bearded, soft red winter wheat variety with excellent straw strength and disease resistance is available from Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.

Pioneer wheat variety 2551 has outstanding ability to resist diseases such as prevalent races of leaf rust, powdery mildew and various leaf blights, and very good winter hardiness, according to wheat product line coordinator Vance York.

The new variety has about the same maturity and height as 2550 wheat from Pioneer. However, wide area testing confirms a four to seven percent yield advantage over 2550.

"Current wheat production programs stress maximum economic returns. Incorporating genetic diversity by planting two compatible varieties is a key to increasing harvest returns," York says. "These two varieties make an excellent package for serious wheat producers."

Additional information about 2551 and twilight wheat plot tours is available from Pioneer sales representatives

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