

Hay In A Day Demonstration

They called the demonstration "Hay In A Day", a 24 hour day that is. You can cut the alfalfa at 10:00 a.m. one day and often the hay is ready to be baled the next day. Of course, you still need the cooperation of the weather.

A group of farmers and company representatives gathered at the family farm of Hubert Sell at Schencksville on Tuesday to witness the demonstration for Pro Dry and Field Fresh. These products are manufactured by American Farm Products and distributed by Agway.

At the farm demonstration the drying chemical was applied as the alfalfa was cut. Janette Brothers Fallon, manager of ICM development for Agway said that farmers will always face the challenge of getting hay cut and baled before it is rained on. "Even under ideal conditions, dry matter losses during harvest can approach 30 per cent," she said. Most of this loss is protein rich leaves, so quality decreases even more than dry matter. In the northeast there is a very good chance that hay will be rained on before it is baled reducing dry matter yield an additional 10 to 40 per cent, and leaching valuable nutrients.

The organic acid preservative permits safe baling at moisture levels of up to 30 per cent moisture. The sodium and potassium carbonate applied at mowing can cut drying time in half.

"The reality of hay harvesting is that part of the crop will be lost during harvest," Fallon said. "Anything farmers can do to reduce the losses, both of the crop being harvested and the next regrowth should be considered. You need to minimize losses and maximize nutrient recovery. This will increase the profitability of your hay crop," she said.



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