

Small Grains Featured

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critical with wheat than with corn, said Dr. Greg Roth. A Penn State research assistant, Roth's research involves timing and application rates of nitrogen on winter wheat. "The best thing to do is manage each field separately," he advises.

As a general rule, said the researcher, fields that receive regular annual manure applications should get from zero to 30 pounds of additional nitrogen, fields manured every two to three years will need from 30 to 60 pounds, and fields that receive no manure will benefit from 60 to 90 pounds of nitrogen.

In general, splitting applications is most beneficial on fields that are normally low in nitrogen. It doesn't pay to split nitrogen applications on fields previously used for legumes or receiving heavy manure applications. Where split applications are used, Roth recommends one-third at green-up and two-thirds in April.

Roth also evaluated single applications of nitrogen at different growth stages and found that applications at growth stage 3 increased yields about 5 bushels per acre over plots receiving nitrogen at growth stage 5. Late applications are risky, said the researcher, since evidence of nitrogen deficiency may show up before application and wet weather could cause further delays

in getting nitrogen on the crop.

Small Grains as Forage

Why use winter cereal grains for forages? In addition to providing erosion control, they increase your total livestock feed production per acre and serve as a hedge against running out of feed in the summer, said Extension agronomist Sidney Bosworth.

Bosworth's research involves the effects of different seeding rates and nitrogen applications on rye, wheat and triticale. He found that seeding three bushels per acre resulted in a six-tenths to nine-tenths yield advantage over the 1.5-pound rate on all three crops.

In this year's trials triticale topped silage yields at 9.6 tons using 135 pounds of nitrogen. Wheat followed, with 8.8 tons at the same nitrogen rate and rye registered its top yield of 6 tons after receiving 90 pounds of nitrogen.

From a quality standpoint, the rye was 16.3 percent crude protein, triticale came in at 9.6 percent and the wheat was 9.3 percent CP, with a 135-pound nitrogen rate for all three crops.

Varying the nitrogen rate made no significant difference in the amount of total digestible nutrients in any of the grains. Wheat registered the highest TDN, followed by rye and triticale.

Bosworth says his experiments indicate a good return on the nitrogen investment for both wheat

and rye up to the 90-pound level. Triticale, on the other hand, continued to respond up to the 135-pound level.

The agronomist noted that double cropping wheat or triticale with corn may hurt corn yields, since both grains are harvested later than rye. "I still think rye is the best and cheapest way to go in a double-crop situation," he said.

Growth Regulators and Barley
Extension small grains specialist Dr. Elwood Hatley outlined research investigating the

effects of Cerone and Modown on winter barley. A growth regulator, Cerone retards growth in the barley stem to help prevent lodging. Modown is a pre-emergent herbicide. Experiments at Landisville involve investigating the effects of these two materials with respect to seeding rates and different nitrogen application rates. "It appears that barley may respond to increased seeding rate and increased nitrogen rate if we can control lodging," said Hatley.

Oats Variety Trials

Plant breeder Harold Marshall reviewed the characteristics of numerous varieties of spring oats on test.

A new variety called Hercules has shown good resistance to lodging, according to Marshall who estimates that the variety will probably experience 10-percent or less lodging under the same conditions that would lodge 40- to 50-percent of Ogle. No other varieties have been able to beat Ogle's consistently high yields, though, said Marshall.

Pa. Senate Approves RCMA Resolution

HARRISBURG - With a vote of 48 to 0, the Pennsylvania Senate unanimously adopted a resolution encouraging dairy farmers to become members of the Regional Cooperative Marketing Agency Inc. The resolution was adopted on Tuesday evening, reported Senator Edward W. Helfrick, R-27, chairman of the Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee and prime sponsor of the resolution.

"It is our concern as legislators that farmers be given every opportunity to improve their economic situation," commented Helfrick. "With RCMA, dairy farmers can work together to better their financial position by improving their milk marketing capabilities." Helfrick noted it is up to each individual dairy farmer

to decide whether becoming a member of RCMA is in his or her best interest.

RCMA was organized in 1973. Until recently, only dairy cooperatives could become members of RCMA. Now, following a restructuring of RCMA, any dairy farmer located in the Northeast can join.

RCMA's purpose is to obtain over-order prices. Members of RCMA will still receive milk checks from handlers for milk shipped at the blend price. Once over-order pricing is instituted, milk processors will pay the difference of blend price and over-order price to RCMA and the members will receive the premium on an equal basis.

Only RCMA members can benefit from the over-order system. Those dairy farmers who do not join, do not receive the premium. It is estimated that 95

percent of the milk producers in the Northeast are needed as RCMA members for the system to be most successful.

An RCMA marketing agreement is an annual contract with a Jan. 1 withdrawal date. However, until the first of January following a full year membership, a member may withdraw with ninety days notice, the Republican Senator noted.

There are 35 areas in the United States with provisions for over-order pricing. In the eleven state northeast region, roughly 91 percent of the dairy farmers have signed an RCMA agreement. In Pennsylvania, there have been roughly 29,000 of the 32,000 dairy farmers enrolled in RCMA.

Senate Resolution 65 was supported by the Pennsylvania Farmers' Association, the Pennsylvania Farmers' Union and the Pennsylvania State Grange.

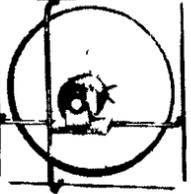
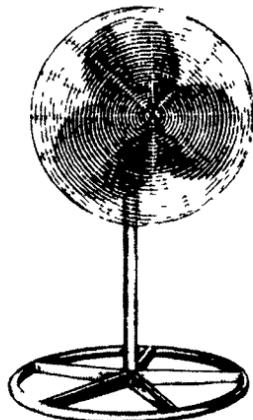


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