

Foraging Around



By Dr. John E. Baylor
Director of Market Development
Beachley-Hardy Seed Company

Dr. John E. Baylor
Director Market Development
Beachley-Hardy Seed Company
FIRST THE SEED

Forage specialists agree that a very important cog in your profitable forage program is high quality seed of adapted species, varieties and mixtures. In this month's column I'd like to visit with you about some of those quality forages and also try to help you understand seed better. In later columns we'll get back to adapted species and mixtures.

Quality- What is it?

Quality seed is especially important with small-seeded perennial legumes and grasses. Seeds of these species are extremely small and contain very little stored food material. Thus, unless you start with good seed and then follow with good seeding practices, you can end up with a seeding failure.

Let me assure you at the start that when you buy seed from your reputable dealer, quality is essentially not a concern. If, on the other hand, you rely on home grown seed you run the risk of planting seed that is inferior in both genetic quality and purity, i.e. freedom from seed seeds or other undesirable materials, as well as low germination.

What, then, is quality in seeds. It refers to genetic quality, germination and purity of a given seed lot or the vitality of the individual seeds.

Let's take a closer look at what these terms mean.

Genetic quality refers to the known heredity of the seed you

buy. Historically, seed certification has been the accepted system used to assure genetic identity. The recently passed Plant Variety Protection Act (PVPA) offers further protection for named varieties of sexually reproduced plants such as alfalfa for which a certificate has been dully issued pursuant to the act. The Federal Seed Act makes it unlawful to sell non-certified seeds of a variety certified under the PVPA.

Purity refers to mechanical purity, i.e. the presence or absence of weed seed, other crop seed or inert matter. These, along with the species and variety name and percent germination are shown on the seed tag. So read the tag!

Percent germination refers to the number of seeds per 100 seeds that germinate satisfactorily under standard laboratory conditions. It's true that field conditions are never as favorable as laboratory conditions. And unfavorable field conditions affect germination and field stands hardest on low-quality seed. But the lab germination is still the accepted standard.

A seed with good vitality is one that not only germinates but produces a seedling capable of developing into an adult plant. Factors which affect vitality include: vigor of parent plants, climatic conditions during seed maturation, seed maturity, seed storage conditions and age of seed.

There's another term you will sometimes hear: seedling aggressiveness. This is a combination of speed of germination and emergence and the ability of the seedling to compete.

For example, of the legumes red clover is generally considered most aggressive followed by sweet clover, alfalfa and alsike clover, ladino clover, birdsfoot trefoil and crownvetch.

Perennial ryegrass tops the aggressiveness list of the perennial cool-season grasses and is followed in order by orchardgrass, tall fescue, bromegrass, timothy, reed canarygrass and kentucky bluegrass.

Also, in general for our small seeded, cool-season grasses, the smaller and lighter the seed, the more feeble is the establishment. For example, bluegrass and redtop have an establishment capacity of 20-25%, timothy 40-50%, and ryegrass about 60-80%. Thus, for these smaller seeded species such things as rate of seeding, depth of seeding, seedbed preparation and many other factors that you control are all critical.

We'll take a look at other aspects of getting good stands in later columns.

Good Idea To License Hunting Dogs

HARRISBURG — With the approach of hunting season, the State Department of Agriculture reminds Pennsylvania sportsmen that it is in their best interest to license hunting dogs.

"There is always an increase in lost animals during hunting season. A license is an invaluable means by which a dog can be recovered," noted William Kennedy, director of the Department's Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement.

The owner of a properly tagged dog can be contacted through the county in which the license was issued.

"The few dollars spent on the cost of a license is a good investment on time and money to protect


an animal," Kennedy said.

The owner is also protected from a costly fine for failure to license. All dogs six months or older must be licensed under state law, and violations can result in fines of up to \$300.

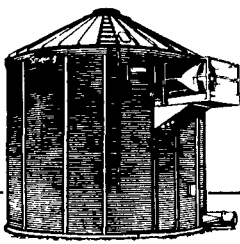
License fees are \$3 for spayed or neutered dogs, \$5 for others. For persons 65 and older who present proof of age, the fee is \$1.75 for spayed and neutered animals and \$2.75 for others. Licenses can be purchased at any county treasurer's office or through an authorized agent.

Kennedy also reminds per owners that dogs must be vaccinated for rabies. Not only is it law, but it makes good sense for hunting dogs to be vaccinated because they have frequent contact with wild animals, he said.

He advised sportsmen who come across a stray dog in the field to approach the animal cautiously to determine if it is wearing tags. If it is licensed, the appropriate county treasurer's office should be notified as soon as possible.



The ONE and ONLY EZEEDRY



If you're looking for the most energy-efficient grain drying and storage system on the market, don't accept imitations. Demand the original EZEEDRY™ by Stormor.

EZEEDRY has the economical overhead drying system that's been proven by more than 15 years of on-farm use. It's the one that's installed and serviced by experienced professionals to make sure it will keep on working flawlessly for years to come.

Don't settle for less than the best! Come see us today we're ready to DEAL!

U.S. Patents 3,479,748 and 3,501,845 Foreign Patents Pending

FORMAN'S GRAIN & FERTILIZER

Liquid & Dry - Custom Spreading
Beaver Run Road, R.D. 1, Box 78
Turbotville, PA 17772
717-649-5579

**SEE FORMAN'S FOR
EDGE - CIMARRON - MAGNUM &
ALFALFA SEEDS**

**HAY, STRAW,
EAR CORN,
PEANUT HULLS**

*At farm or delivered in any
quantity as you require.*

Esbenshade Turkey Farm

(America's Oldest)
Paradise, Pa.
(717) 687-7631

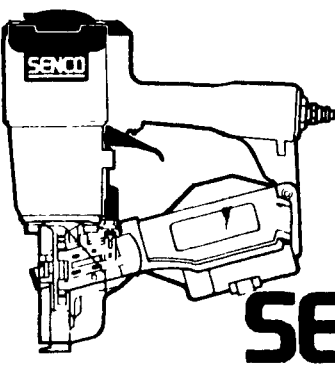
**IT'S HERE!
THE ALL-NEW SCN200R
ROOFING COIL NAILER.**

**Special Introductory Prices
While Supplies Last**

We're offering special, too-good-to-miss deals on this all-new, state-of-the-art air-powered roofing coil nailer from Senco®.

- Drives 5 full round-head galvanized roofing nails.
- 50% productivity increase over the hammer.
- Easy, one-hand use... hold shingles with free hand
- No special training...you're productive the first day.
- Pays for itself in 250-300 squares, even less if you already have a compressor.

Stop In Today! Take advantage of these special deals on the new Senco SCN200R Roofing Coil Nailer.



List \$467.00
SALE PRICE \$350.00

SENCO®

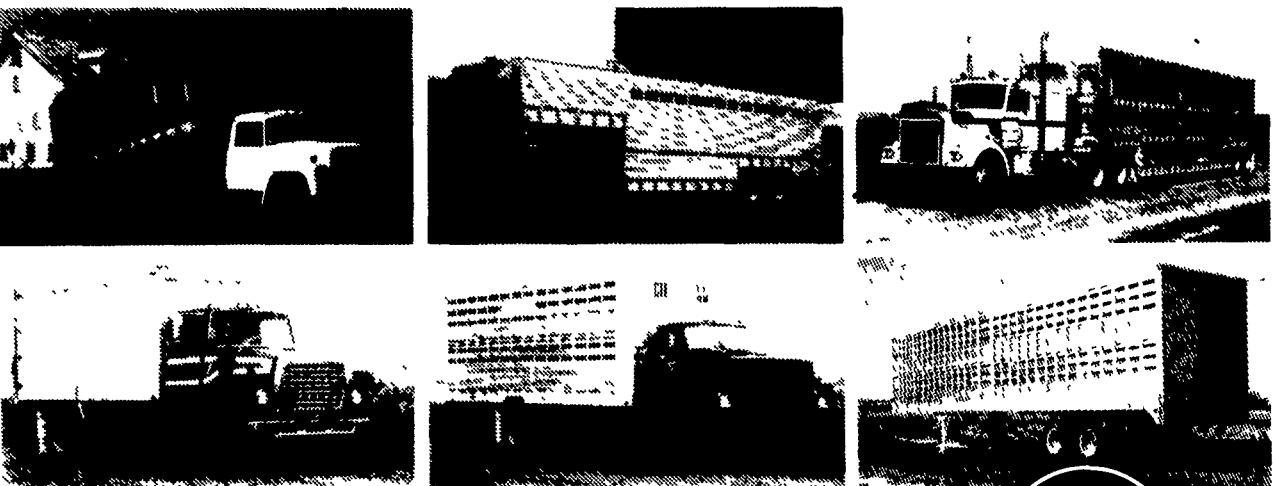
FASTENING SYSTEMS

BLUE BALL MACHINE CO., INC.


INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES
P.O. Box 369 Blue Ball, PA 17506
(717) 354-4478

Mon., Tues., Wed., Fri. 7:30-5:00, Thurs. 7:30-9:00, Sat. 7:30-11:30

The name agribusiness depends on.



Today, livestock and grain haulers need every advantage they can get. That's why more and more of them turn to Eby aluminum bodies and trailers. They rely on Eby's 40 years of experience to deliver a quality, performance-proven product. Every Eby aluminum body and trailer is an investment in long-lasting durability and practical economy. For more information write M.H. Eby, Inc., Box 127, Blue Ball, PA 17506. Or call 717-354-4971.



Aluminum grain, bulk feed and livestock bodies, gooseneck trailers, possum belly and straight livestock trailers