

# Sorghum-Sudangrass A Good Alternative Hay, Forage Crop

DEKALB, IL — Pasture, hay, haylage, greenchop or covercrop are excellent uses for sorghum-sudangrass. These hybrids also offer drought tolerance, weed control and tolerance to atrazine carryover from last year, according to Larry Martin, Regional Agronomist for Dekalb-Pfizer Genetics. Sorghum-sudan can be grazed

after reaching a height of 18 inches, about three to four weeks after planting, says Martin. "To get maximum utilization, fence off small acreages and rotate the cattle from area to area as the crop is grazed down. With good growing conditions, five to six mature cows can be grazed per acre." Excellent hay can be produced

with Sudax because of its feed value, palatable regrowth, and adaptability. "Its drought tolerance keeps it growing when perennial grasses fail," says Martin. "Harvest for hay should occur when the crop is waist high." Haylage from sorghum-sudan is an excellent feed source if the crop is cut prior to the boot stage.

Fine chopping at 40 to 50 percent moisture produces the best packing consistency for upright and bunker silos. "One acre of waist high Sudax greenchop is sufficient for six to eight dairy cows," according to the agronomist. Because of the fast, lush growth, sorghum-sudan offers excellent weed control on set aside

acres. The massive root system and crop residue promote soil tilth. "Sorghum-sudan is an excellent interim crop for farmers who are reseeding an alfalfa stand," says the Dekalb-Pfizer agronomist. "The sorghum-sudan provides the necessary protection from alfalfa autotoxicity while controlling erosion and providing a feed that surpasses the minimum daily requirements of a cow-calf unit."

## Penn State Publishes New Dairy Manual

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre) — Penn State's College of Agriculture has just published a new resource book designed to help dairy producers keep their herds healthy and economically productive.

The *Pennsylvania Dairy Health and Biosecurity Manual* has been compiled by Dr. Larry J. Hutchinson, professor of veterinary science, Dr. Tina L. Smith, research assistant, and Carolyn M. Burns, research assistant.

Biosecurity is an umbrella term for all management practices that protect the herd from the entry,

spread and adverse effects of diseases. Biosecurity emphasizes that protecting the herd and realizing a good return on dairy products are linked.

The *Dairy Health and Biosecurity Manual* is designed in notebook format and divided into sections for easy reference. As materials are updated and new subjects added, additional information sheets will be available.

The first section is a checklist, or calendar, of health and biosecurity practices designed to help farmers plan, organize and carry

out necessary procedures at the proper time. The checklist includes a calf and heifer calendar from birth to 24 months and shows the proper times to vaccinate and what vaccines should be given. It also provides guidelines for environmental management.

The remainder of the manual is a series of information sheets on health and biosecurity subjects and practices. This information explains the checklist and is divided into seven sections.

The sections and information sheets cover a variety of topics. For introducing new animals into the herd, for example, the manual contains both general information on new arrivals and additional information sheets on bovine leukosis and Johne's disease.

Information also is included on keeping animals healthy once they are a part of the herd. Sections on "Control of Farm Traffic" and "Separation of Groups" discuss rat, mice and bird control as well as the possibility of disease spread through visitors. Charts on hous-

ing requirements for calves and heifers and diseases spread from older to younger animals also are included.

"Sanitation and Disinfection," "Preventive Medicine" and "Maintaining High Disease Resistance" provide an easy reference for troubleshooting a great variety of health problems. Charts on common disinfectants, cattle vaccines and water supply analysis are included, along with information on external and internal parasites, mechanical ventilation systems, naturally ventilated housing and footbaths.

"Meat and Milk Quality" includes a drug use guide and information on preventing antibiotic contamination.

Copies of the *Pennsylvania Dairy Health and Biosecurity Manual* are available for \$8 from Penn State University, Publications Distributions Center, 112 Agricultural Administration Building, University Park, PA 16802, or your local Penn State Cooperative Extension office.

Seeding rates vary for the intended purpose. Pasture or greenchop under favorable dryland conditions requires 15 to 20 pounds of seed per acre. Hay or haylage requires 25 to 35 pounds (reduces stem size). Seeding rates as low as six pounds can be used for covercrops," adds Martin.

Regardless of use, clipped sorghum-sudan in the pre-boot stage to prevent seed set. Some hybrids are male sterile, however, the sterility can be broken by pollen from related plants such as grain sorghum, other sorghum-sudangrass hybrids, shattercane, johnsongrass, and broom corn. Pollen from these plants can travel three to four miles.

Sorghum-sudan has excellent tolerance to triazine herbicides and has demonstrated better tolerance to the imidazolinone herbicides than corn. Therefore, sorghum-sudan may be an optional crop for growers who are concerned with carryover in certain fields and do not have the option to grow corn in those acres.

## Sire Power Adds Crouse Bull

TUNKHANNOCK (Wyoming) — A young Holstein bull bred by Galen W. Crouse, Stevens, Pennsylvania was recently selected to enter the GOLD Sire Development Program at Sire Power, Inc.

Len-Lyn Enhancer Super-Twin 2080308 is located at Sire Power headquarters where he will undergo an intensive herd health program before joining 70 other bulls being sampled this year.

Sire Power, Inc., the oldest and fastest growing A.I. cooperative maintains high pedigree standards for bulls entering our GOLD Sire Program.

Len-Lyn Enhancer Super-Twin 2080308 is sired by Glenafton Enhancer, a genetically superior bull with +1379M +.17% +81F +\$206, 99% Repeatability, PDT +1.91, 99% Repeatability.

His dam is Len-Lyn Enchantment Kate-ET, VG(86). She was specially selected because of her outstanding type and production with a top record at 2-4 305 days of 19210M 4.0% 765F, a cow index of +1110M +.07% +53F

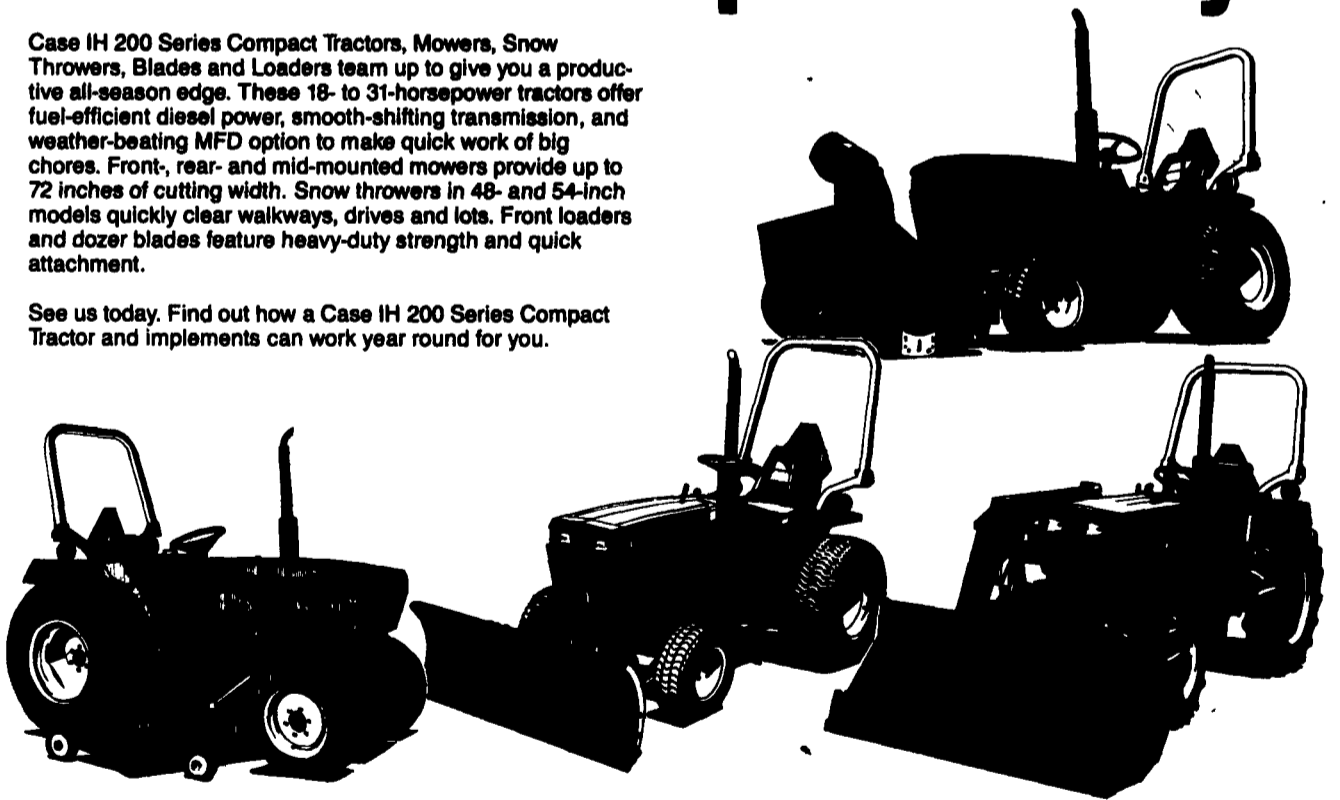
+\$147. She is sired by Cor-Vel Enchantment.

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