

Growers Learn No Alfalfa Variety Can Compensate For Poor Management

NEW HOLLAND (Lancaster Co.) — Approximately 120 farmers attended the Dekalb Alfalfa Growers Seminar on Thursday to learn more about "the queen of forages."

Dr. Marvin Hall, Penn State forage specialist, spoke about the importance of looking at the breed characteristics vital to profitability in a forage stand.

There are about 90 different varieties of alfalfa in Pennsylvania, he said. Varieties to look for include those with sufficient disease and insect resistance and winter hardiness.

Growers should take special consideration with the various kinds of wilts that affect alfalfa, and, in southeastern Pennsylvania, should look at varieties that are especially resistant to anthracnose and phytophthora root rot.

Growers should consult the "Penn State 1991 Forage Trials

Report," which details results of a wide array of variety trials, at local extension offices. He said growers should not concentrate so much on the multileaf traits if selecting for that variety, but for resistance to various diseases, standability, and ability to generate necessary feed nutrients.

He said growers should keep in mind that "no variety can compensate for poor management." Good management includes a variety of practices, including fertilization, weed management, establishment, and harvesting.

Hall also spoke about the various forage weeds that affect stand growth and methods to control them.

According to John C. Wysolmerski, Dekalb-Pfizer Genetics district sales manager, this is the first in an annual series of meetings to provide information important to the alfalfa grower.



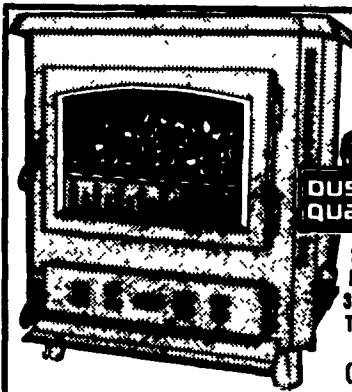
John Alwine, Middletown, left, was recognized by Dekalb for more than 50 years of contributions to the company with a color television by John Wysolmerski, Dekalb district sales manager.

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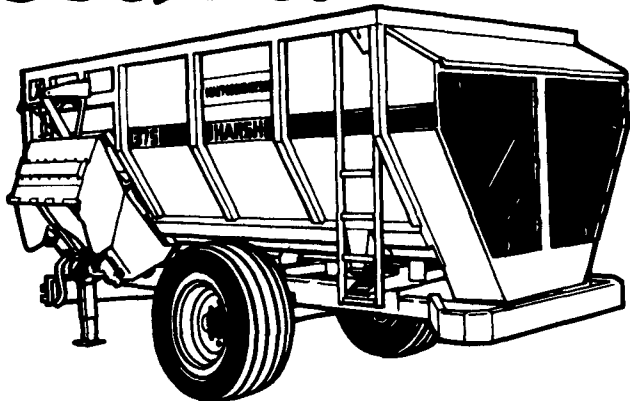
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