

Gro-Mor Offers Spring Planting Tips

LEOLA (Lancaster Co.) — For the past 37 years, Richard Breckbill of Oxford, has run a dairy and a grain farm. He owns 275 acres and rents 1,250 acres, and grows corn, soybeans, alfalfa, barley, and wheat.

For the past 15 years, he has been using liquid fertilizer, and Gro-Mor liquid fertilizer for the past seven.

On spring planting, Breckbill said, "We use 3-18-18 on the alfalfa and 9-18-9 on the corn. We foliage-feed our alfalfa when the regrowth is two to five inches tall, and then we put the insecticide and boron in. We see very good results with that, including improved feed value for our dairy cows."

He said, "When we plant corn, we split the application. We put three gallons on the seed and five gallons on the side of the row. The big thing I see is that it doesn't burn the seed."

"In the spring, it's very impor-

tant to put the 9-18-9 on when you plant early, because it gets the corn out of the ground and gets it going early. It also has strong root development."

Dick said he prefers Gro-Mor liquid fertilizer because it's easy to handle and noncorrosive.

According to Marty Campfield, director of agronomic services for Nutrient Solutions in Agriculture (a division of Gro-Mor Plant Food Co.), "Spring always seems to 'spring on us' just when we start thinking about calibrating the planter and manure spreader, getting the lime and fertilizer spread, and figuring out which crops will go where. Maybe this year you're actually prepared or maybe, once again, you're not."

Either way, here's a checklist of spring planting items to consider.

Manure

- Get a manure analysis done to know your actual nutrient values per ton or 100 gallons of manure.

- Calibrate your manure spreader for the type of manure you use on your farm. You might be surprised what you're actually applying per acre.

- Consider the benefits of immediate incorporation of spring-applied manure. This can really boost the amount of recoverable nitrogen.

- Decide if you should import or export manure to or from your farm.

Fertilizer:

- Consider the advantages of true-solution liquid as a starter fertilizer.

- Be sure to have soil testing done on a three-year rotational basis on all fields, including rented ground.

- Plan on tissue testing a few of your fields this spring and summer to determine the effectiveness of your fertility program.

- Do some nitrogen sidedress soil testing to determine the amount of nitrogen actually avail-

able to your corn at sidedressing time. This will save you money on nitrogen fertilizer you may not need.

- Consider the added value of micronutrients in your fertilizer, such as zinc for corn, boron for alfalfa, and manganese for soybeans.

Crop Rotations:

- Are you thinking of trying some new crops this year — maybe soybeans for the first time? Read up on the management needed for top yields.

- If you're planting corn in a prior alfalfa field, don't forget to deduct the residual nitrogen from your normal corn nitrogen fertilizer rates. This can be as much as 100 pounds of nitrogen per acre or more.

- If you plow in green manure crops planted in the fall for corn in the spring, or rotate into corn from soybeans, you also get a nitrogen credit.

Planter:

- Now is the time to check over your planter(s) and drill(s). If they are set up for dry fertilizer, check to see that the moving parts and the fertilizer hoppers are not rusted fast or corroded through. If

you use liquid, check the condition of your pump(s), tubing, and fittings.

- Think about your desired plant populations, and calibrate for the additional population you'll need to plant to achieve this final population goal.

Field Maps:

- This is a good time to create or update field maps.

- Think about new fields you are renting or fields you may have sold or are no longer renting.

- Be sure each map shows an accurate representation of the field, with landmarks noted — streams and roads as boundaries, for instance.

- Each field should be marked with a number that never changes, and the acreage.

IPM:

- IPM, or integrated pest management, is the combination of any management practices that improve the efficiency or effectiveness of crop production, and the minimization of negative effects from weeds, insects, and other plant pests.

- What is your IPM program going to be this year?

PJCA

Sets Show At Beef Expo

PORT ALLEGANY (McKean Co.) — The Pennsylvania Junior Cattlemen's Association (PJCA) will hold its third annual Junior Steer and Heifer Preview Show at the 4th annual Pennsylvania Beef Expo, scheduled for March 25-28 at the Penn State Ag Arena in University Park.

The Expo is an annual event sponsored by Penn State Department of Dairy and Animal Science, Pennsylvania Dept of Agriculture, Pennsylvania Beef Council, and Pennsylvania Cattlemen's Association.

A Junior Heifer Show will be held Sunday, March 28, at 8 a.m. Classes will be divided by age within each breed. Minimum age of heifers is November 30, 1992 (must be weaned) and maximum age is September 1, 1990. Heifers with calves at side will be shown in dam's age group as one entry unit.

The Junior Steer Show is scheduled for Sunday, March 28, at 1 p.m. Steer classes will be broken by weight and all steers will be weighed at 1 p.m. on Saturday March 27. Light, middle, and heavy-weight division champions will compete for grand champion. Premiums and ribbons will be awarded to all participants and trophies and banners will be awarded to champions.

In an incentive program started this year, an added purse is being established for the supreme champion female award with the intention of rewarding any junior member who purchases a superior heifer at one of the cooperating breed sales at the Pennsylvania Beef Expo and shows her at the Junior Heifer Show on March 28.

To be eligible for the added purse, the heifer must be purchased at a breed sale held in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Beef Expo and must be from a cooperating breed association. A list of all cooperating breeds will be available at the Expo prior to the breed sales and announcements will be made at individual breed sales regarding eligibility.

Entries can be made on the attached form. Any and all individuals under the age of 21 are invited to show and participate in this event. Please direct all entries and any questions to J-Bar Cattle Co., Jeff Brown, RD#3 Box 184, Port Allegany, PA 16743, (814) 642-2564.

Bobcat & Bob-Tach...

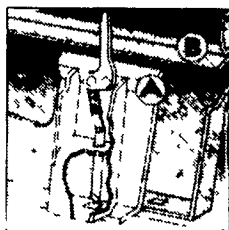
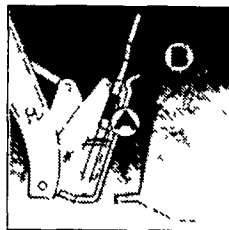
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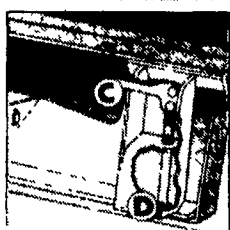
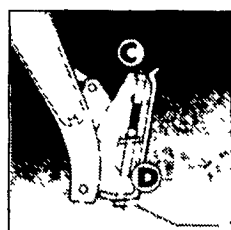
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The Bobcat attachment advantage.

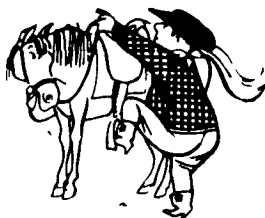
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