

Forage Meeting Held



Information about pasture mixtures for the coming growing season was provided to about 20 growers, dealers, and agri-industry representatives Wednesday at the first P.L. Rohrer Forage Meeting at Akron Family Restaurant. Jonathan Rupert, product development manager for Ampac Seed Company, Tangent, Ore., left, and Duane Borcharding, marketing representative, CelPril Seed Enhancements, right, spoke about new types of grasses and coated alfalfa for the 1998 season. In center is Earl W. Rohrer, president and general manager of P.L. Rohrer & Bro., Inc.

overseeding, and introduction of new varieties, he noted. He also told them to proceed slowly and do independent research.

Pasture Perfect is a new family of forage mixtures that set new industry standards, Rupert indicated. They are available through Rohrer's and their dealers in 25- and 50-pound bags. Tekapo is especially noted for grazing, because it is more prostrate growing than traditional orchardgrass.

Also at the meeting, Duane Borcharding, from CelPril, spoke about the use of coated seed alfalfa. Borcharding overviewed the experience of a dairy farmer Roger

Elliott near Evansville, Minn. Elliott used a coated alfalfa seed and achieved a 1997 per acre yield average of more than eight tons per acre. Using Avalanche alfalfa, half was coated with Rhizo-Kote XL from CelPril and half was pre-inoculated, for an advantage of 882 pounds per acre.

According to Earl W. Rohrer, 85 percent of the alfalfa seed sold by the Rohrer's is coated, providing more inoculant than pre-inoculated seed. It provides a healthier, more dense stand, because the coat provides protection from seedling diseases.

Henry Becomes Ag Loan Officer

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — Bank of Lancaster County has announced the promotion of Mary E. Henry to agricultural loan officer.

Henry joined the bank in November 1996 and most recently served as branch officer of the Buck Office. She is a graduate of Solanco High School and attended Shippensburg University. She is attending the Pennsylvania Bankers Association Central Atlantic Advanced School of Banking.

In addition, she has done extensive on-the-job training and has received certificates for several courses she has taken.

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Rupert provided information on how to identify the types of grasses needed for a producer's type of operation. Included was information on the Tonga perennial ryegrass, the Tekapo brand premium orchardgrass, and Festorina, an abundant tall fescue.

Rupert provided some information about the use of a brand new variety of winter hardy diploid perennial, Canasta. In tests in Wisconsin ("a good site to test winter hardiness," Rupert noted), Canasta rated really well. In 1999, Canasta is slated to replace the Zero Nui perennial ryegrass listed on the intensive grazing mixture out of the Pasture Perfect formulations, according to Rupert.

Rupert spoke about the Pasture Perfect premium forage grass seed mixture combinations. With improved palatability and nutrients, the mixtures contain at least 70 percent of improved varieties and are region-specific. They include a highland pasture mixture, lowland pasture mixture, horse pasture mix, triple purpose hay and pasture mix, intensive grazing mixture, and hay diversion mixture.

Producers should learn to perfect pastures through incremental steps and regular maintenance,





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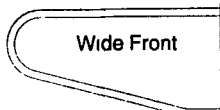
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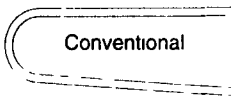


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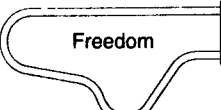
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