



Robert Chaapel, district sales manager for Seedway, center, talks about the many advantages of festulolium for intensive grazing.

New Hybrid Grass A Hit On Milton Farm

JUDY PATTON

Union Co. Correspondent

MILTON (Northumberland Co.) — to spread the word about a recently developed hybrid grass — festulolium — Penn State extension forage specialist Dave Hartman held a pasture walk in June at Max DeHart's farm near Milton.

Seedway district sales manager Robert Chaapel and farm manager Jack Smith provided information on festulolium to farmers who attended.

A cross between meadow fescue and perennial tetraploid ryegrass, Chaapel said the festulolium has become a top-seller in his 12-county district because of its many advantages, even though it is more expensive than orchardgrass. The intensive grazing mix using festulolium costs about \$50 per acre to establish, whereas cheaper mixes run about \$30 to \$38. It is used more for grazing in a two- or three-year rotation cycle than for haying, Chaapel said.

Since festulolium was developed in northern Europe, where the climate is similar to Pennsylvania's, it holds up well over winter. Its deep root system

makes it very adaptable to hilly ground with shallow topsoil common to this area. It has faster regrowth and a longer grazing season than perennial ryegrass even in dry periods, according to Seedway literature.

High palatability and nutritive value are also trademarks of festulolium. It maintains large leaves and small, soft stems even in the reproductive stage, which means that animals eat more of it and get more nutrients with less fiber. The two-year means yields average 5.62 tons of dry matter per acre with 27.9 percent ADF, 50 percent NDF, and 131.2 percent relative feed value (RFV).

Seedway's custom mix for the DeHart Farm included 30 percent festulolium, 20 percent orchardgrass, 17 percent Haygrazer alfalfa, 15 percent ryegrass, and 6 percent alsike clover. The recommended seeding rate is 25 pounds per acre. Seedway recommends using 150 pounds of nitrogen per acre per year for fertilizer, 30 percent applied in the spring and the rest evenly split after each harvesting. It is also recommended to pasture when

(Turn to Page 18)



Jack Smith, farm manager, right, and Max DeHart, farm owner, also talked about this orchardgrass pasture.

SEE YOUR NEAREST



NEW HOLLAND

**DEALER FOR DEPENDABLE
EQUIPMENT & SERVICE**

PENNSYLVANIA

Abbottstown, PA

Messick
Equipment
RD 1, Box 255A
717-259-6617

Honey Grove, PA

Norman D. Clark
& Son, Inc.
Honey Grove, PA
717-734-3682
Loysville, PA
717-789-3117

Annaville, PA

BHM Farm
Equipment,
Inc.
RD 1, Rte. 934
717-867-2211

New Holland, PA

A.B.C. Groff, Inc.
110 South Railroad
717-354-4191

Oley, PA

C.J. Wonsidler
Bros.
R.D. 2
610-987-6257

Carlisle, PA

R&W
Equipment Co.
35 East Willow Street
717-243-2686

Pitman, PA

Schreffler
Equipment
Pitman, PA
717-648-1120

Elizabethtown, PA

Messick Farm
Equipment, Inc.
Rt. 283 - Rheem's
Exit
717-367-1319

Tamaqua, PA

Charles S.
Snyder, Inc.
R.D. 3
717-386-5945

Halifax, PA

Sweigard Bros.
R D. 3, Box 13
717-896-3414

West Grove, PA

S.G. Lewis & Son, Inc.
352 N. Jennersville Rd
610-869-2214 1-800-869-9029

MARYLAND

Frederick, MD

Ceresville Ford New Holland, Inc.
Rt. 26 East 301-662-4197
Outside MD, 800-331-9122

Hagerstown, MD

Antietam Ford Tractor, Inc.
2027 Leitersburg Pike
800-553-6731
301-791-1200

Rising Sun, MD

Ag Industrial Equipment
Route 1, 50 N. Greenmont Rd.
401-658-5568

NEW JERSEY

Bridgeton, NJ

Leslie G. Fogg,
Inc.
Canton & Stow Creek
Landing Rd.
609-451-2727
609-935-5145

Washington, NJ

Smith Tractor &
Equip., Inc.
15 Hillcrest Ave.
908-689-7900

Woodstown, NJ

Owen Supply Co.
Broad Street &
East Avenue
609-769-0308



NEW HOLLAND
Credit Company