

## Gov. Ridge Announces \$5.3 Million In Interim Drought Assistance For Pennsylvania's Farmers

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costs;

- transports donated hay from the Midwest to Pennsylvania; and

- waives state fees on Pennsylvania farmers, such as testing fees at the state's agricultural labs.

Gov. Ridge also amended his July 20 drought emergency declaration to ensure that all 67 Pennsylvania counties can benefit from the interim assistance package.

A rebate plan will be created to partially reimburse farmers for their costs in purchasing hay and, if needed hauling it from out of state during the fall and winter seasons.

A \$60 rebate would be provided for each ton of hay purchased in state. A \$50 rebate would be

provided for each ton of hay purchased out of state. A \$25 rebate for each ton of hay would be provided to help defray the long-distance hauling costs.

This rebate plan would contribute to the purchase of approximately 60,000 tons of purchased hay.

The state Department of Agriculture has secured 1,300 tons of hay donated by Wisconsin to help Pennsylvania farmers. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania will pay to transport this donated hay from Wisconsin to Pennsylvania. The donated hay will be stored at Fort Indiantown Gap, Lebanon County, for distribution to drought-stricken farmers.

The departments of Agriculture and Labor and Industry will waive nearly \$300,000 in user fees farmers

pay. These include veterinary laboratory diagnostic, pesticide license, seed certification fees and seasonal farm labor camp registration fees. Fees for testing forages and feeds will continue to be provided free of charge.

Hay purchase and transportation were top priorities from Pennsylvania's farmers identified by all three major Pennsylvania farm organizations and the Governor expressed his appreciation to the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, the Pennsylvania State Grange and the Pennsylvania Farmer's Union for working with the Department of Agriculture to suggest ways to help Pennsylvania farmers.

Gov. Ridge called for federal grants for Pennsylvania farmers on Aug. 18, in a letter to congressional leaders and

Pennsylvania's congressional delegation asking for federal grants to help Pennsylvania farmers. He noted that agriculture is Pennsylvania's No. 1 industry with nearly 50,000 family farms and \$44 billion generated each year.

"The emergency allocation by Gov. Ridge is good news," state Agriculture Secretary Samuel Hayes said. "While there is no easy response or 'silver-bullet' solution for the drought and its

long-lasting effects, it will be possible to provide a good measure of hay and transportation assistance for our dairy and livestock industry later this fall and winter."

Guidelines for the hay assistance program will be available on Oct. 1. Details also will be available on the department's website off the Pennsylvania homepage at [www.state.pa.us](http://www.state.pa.us) or directly at [www.pda.state.pa.us](http://www.pda.state.pa.us).



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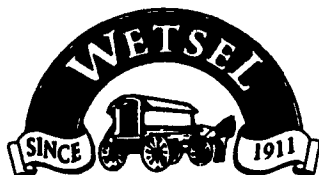
### Planting Information For Marshall Ryegrass

Although conditions and methods vary from area to area, chiseling followed by disking generally prepares a good seedbed for most winter annual programs. It is best to eliminate surface vegetation and breaks up clods into a firm smooth seedbed. It is important that the seed come into contact with soil and receive sufficient light for seedling development.

**Seeding:** A pasture seeder or grain drill does the best job and lets you cut the broadcast seeding rate by a third to a half. Generally, your planting should be shallow, not more than a 1/4" to 1/2". It is important to firm the seedbed with a cultipacker or seed with a pasture seeder with a cultipacker attachment. **Plant 25-30 lb. per acre.**

**Fertility:** Fertilizer and lime according to soil test recommendations.

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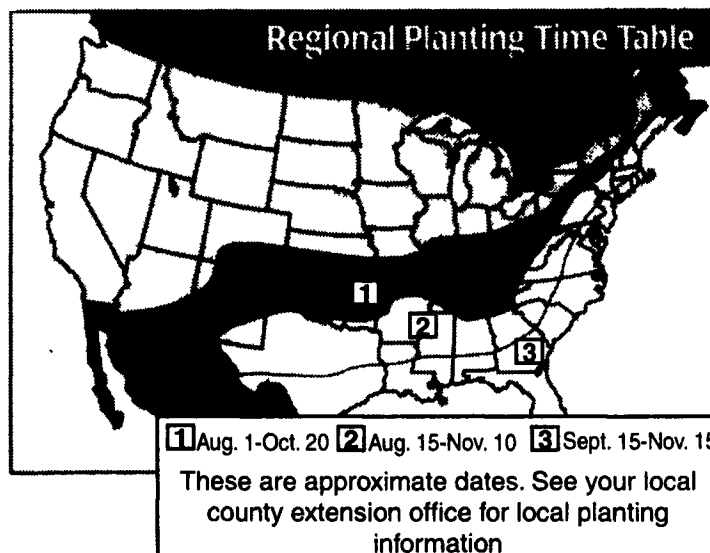
### FOR MAXIMUM PRODUCTION OF MARSHALL RYEGRASS

**General Practices:**

- ✓ If planted in autumn, allow first growth to obtain 8"-10" in height.
- ✓ Leave grass at 3"-4" so it will recover 50% faster.
- ✓ If cutting for hay, cut at a 3-inch height rather than the 1/2 inch height for Kentucky 31.
- ✓ If cutting for silage, cut at a 3-inch height rather than the 1/2 inch height for Kentucky 31 grass mixture.

**Grazing:** Overgrazing in the fall may reduce production in the spring when your cows need it most for milk production and rebreeding. Do not let winter annual pasture varieties get below three inches. And be cautious of undergrazing since it often results in lower nutrient values. Excessive accumulation of winter legume growth may often result in more winterkill.

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