



WET SEASON MEANS WE NEED TO MAKE THE MOST OUT OF EVERY ACRE

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Last year, many Northeast farmers endured moderate to severe drought stress. As a result, many entered the 2000 growing season with inadequate forage inventories and high hopes that we would have a better growing season with more moisture.

Well, we got more moisture all right. Many farmers were unable to plant all of their corn, first cutting hay was harvested very late and much of it got rained on at least once before it was baled or chopped. We had very heavy alfalfa weevil pressure in many areas. Leafhopper came in early but the beating rains kept populations down...perhaps the only good thing about this heavy rainfall which also washed away large areas of newly planted corn and new seedings and prevented timely application of post emergent weed control.

Waterlogged conditions resulted in higher than normal losses of applied nitrogen, increasing the demand for sidedressed N...but continued wet conditions made it difficult to do that as well. All this rain also washed away hopes for a "good crop year."

Many farmers planted soybeans or Agway 44 sorgo x sudangrass when it got too late to plant corn. Some will plant more wheat this fall than they originally planned on. Others will put in summer seedings...anything to keep land productive and put feed in their bunkers. We

need to make the most out of every acre we were able to get planted. Here are a few things to consider as we approach harvest season.

Alfalfa and alfalfa grass stands — balanced fertility helps perennial forages perform and persist over the long haul. Be sure to topdress good

stands of alfalfa or alfalfa grass mixtures with P and K after the last harvest to improve winter survival and get it off to a fast start next spring...especially if it wasn't top-dressed earlier in the season. Boron and other micronutrients may be needed as well. Weigh the risk associated with a late fall harvest vs how badly you need the feed right now. It is a field by field decision.

Sorgo x sudangrass or sudangrass — follow the minimum height guidelines for greenchop or pasture to avoid problems with prussic acid poisoning (30-inches for sorgo x su-

dangrass and 18-inches for sudangrass). If frosted, wait until frosted tissue is paper brown and any new growth reaches the minimum height mentioned above. If ensiled, allow six-eight weeks in the silo before feeding to allow prussic acid to dissipate.

Winter wheat — plant certified seed during the first week or two after the Hessian Fly Free date. Plant a week or two earlier and apply 40 pounds of N per acre in addition to recommend fall rates if fall pasture is needed...which it may be in some areas.



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