

Barenbrug Seed Company Offers Grass Seminar

INTERCOURSE (Lancaster Co.) — Area graziers had the chance to attend a day of presentations on forage grasses and grazing here January 16.

Sponsored by Barenbrug seed company in cooperation with King's Agriseeds of Ronks, the seminar focused on the theme of "Better Grass For Ruminants."

Presenters included a dairy farmer from Northern Ireland; a Wisconsin nutritionist, farmer, and author; and local Barenbrug representatives.

David Johnston of Northern Ireland — "home of the green, green grass," — gave an overview of the strongly grass-based dairy and beef industries there.

Farmers in his country view grazing as the most efficient use of all resources, according to Johnston.

"We look on our grass as a

crop," he said.

He pointed out a study showing the cost of raising grassfed beef is about 17 percent of the cost of raising "housefed" beef in Northern Ireland.

Gary Zimmer of Wisconsin spoke on "Healthy soils, healthy grass, and healthy animals."

"In this country we've ignored soil mineral balance and supplemented everything (in the feed ration)," he said.

Aaron King of King's Agriseeds has been selling Barenbrug grass and legume forage seeds since 1993.

A dairy farmer, King told the group he believes in the seeds he offers.

"We try out the grasses on our own cows before we sell them," he said.

Barenbrug's seed company was founded in Holland in 1904.



Speakers and Barenbrug seed company representatives at local grazing seminar. From left, David Johnston, Northern Ireland; Gary Zimmer, Wisconsin; John Thyssen, Oregon; Tim Guttridge, Barenbrug representative for Northeastern U.S.; and Chad Martin of Agri-King.

30th National Agricultural Plastics Congress To Take Place In San Diego

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — The American Society for Plastics (ASP) will host its 30th National Agricultural Plastics Congress on Feb. 23-26 at the Doubletree Hotel Mission Valley in San Diego, Calif.

The event will highlight the latest in the development, manufacturing, and utilization of plastic products in agricultural production systems, bringing together industry professionals from around the world.

The Congress will begin with a presentation from keynote speaker James J. Stapleton, Ph.D., entitled "Alternatives to Methyl Bromide Soil Fumiga-

tion: How Far Have We Progressed?" Methyl bromide soil fumigation is scheduled for total phase out in the U.S. and other developed countries in January of 2005. Dr. Stapleton's presentation will provide a progress report on current and projected alternatives, including chemical, biological, and/or physical treatment options for growers.

Dr. Stapleton, IPM plant pathologist with the University of California's statewide IPM project, is based at the UC Kearney Agricultural Center, near Fresno. He has more than 20 years research and extension experience with soil fumigation

and fumigation alternatives.

Another highlight of the program is the presentation of technical reports from over 50 individuals from the academic community, manufacturing, and production enterprises, representing the U.S. and countries from around the world. Presentations will cover the latest in academic research, applied experiences, and product development research from educational institutions and the private sector.

Among the categories in which papers will be presented are crop production systems with plasticulture; drip irriga-

tion and chemigation; flower and ornamental production; greenhouses and controlled environment agriculture; plastics technology and recycling of plastics; row covers, low tunnels, and high tunnels; small fruit production; solarization and fumigation; and vegetable production.

Tours will offer attendees the opportunity to witness past research put into practice. Concurrent tours showcasing agricultural production and plasticulture activities will be conducted on Tuesday, Feb. 26 as an addition to the Congress program.

Congress attendees will also have the opportunity to visit with plasticulture industry suppliers in the designated exhibit area. Various industry representatives will be on-site showcasing the newest and innovative products available to aid in the improvement of crop yields through plastics technology and production systems.

Not only an educational event, the Congress also serves as an opportunity for individuals in the plasticulture field to come together, network, and forge new relationships with colleagues from around the world.

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