



NEWSLETTER

August 2022

So far, this year has been challenging on many different levels; from high commodity prices which has led to increasing feed costs, to record inflation in other sectors, especially fuel and fertilizer. Now, it seems like we have a summer drought upon us as well. However, farmers are the eternal optimists and will find a way to overcome these obstacles. Here, we will focus on maximizing hay and haylage forage production and its use.

Regardless of the species, the maximum quality of forage is very dependent on the maturity level at harvest. For alfalfa stands, this means at the mid bud stage, which is typically every 28-32 days between cuttings. Protein is generally the highest single purchased ingredient on dairy and beef farms, so growing more protein makes very good financial sense. The best way to do this is by properly harvesting alfalfa to maximize quality and minimize storage losses; try to target crude protein levels at a minimum of 19% protein with good fibre digestibility in hay stands. Store grass and alfalfa silages at 40% – 55% moisture, apply a good inoculant, and pack and seal the crop tightly for complete fermentation.

Since volume in hay fields is very low in many parts of the province, many are planting forage crops into wheat stubble to help replace hay and haylage supplies. There are numerous excellent fast-growing seed options available to choose from and more seed is now available than in recent years as well. Some popular summer-planted forage crops include oats, peas, rye, triticale, sorghum, sudan grass, and forage soybeans. Since it is important to have sufficient ground moisture in order to be successful in getting the crop started, we need to watch the forecast closely and hopefully plant just before a rain. If there is very little rain in the forecast, seeding depth becomes increasingly important in order to ensure good germination.

The calendar date to harvest can vary, but typically is around 50-60 days after planting, making harvest occur around late September or early October. I would encourage producers to be patient and wait for a nice and sunny four-day window in order to cut and harvest, as it can be tricky to get the crop dry enough with the hours of sun greatly reduced in the fall. Try to avoid moisture levels above 67% to avoid fermentation and storage issues.

All the best with your summer forage harvesting... Next month we will be discussing corn silage!

Don Haycock

Technical Specialist - Dairy



Another summer is passing by quickly. We at B&L Farm Services Ltd. are coming to the end of another business year and would like to thank you for your support this past year.

We need your help. Our accounts receivable must be as current as possible at our year end, August 31st. We would appreciate it if you could help us in this matter by sending in your payment by the 20th of August so we can have all accounts as current as possible. Thank you for your co-operation.



Generac Generators

Thinking of getting a Generator in time for winter?

Now is the time to order. Up to 4 months lead-time needed. Call Matt about pricing.

Silage Chipper Days



Coming in September, Silage Chipper Days. Bring a sampling of your corn stalks to a designated location and have them tested to how close they are to being ready to harvest. Watch for details in the coming weeks.

WE STILL HAVE LOTS OF TWINE, SILAGE AND NET WRAP AVAILABLE FOR FALL. GRAND HARVEST, ZEUS AND COMMITTED AG BRANDS.

CALL US FOR COMPETITIVE PRICING

**We stock wood pellets in both
Softwood and
Hardwood**

Skid lot pricing available

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