



**FARM SERVICES** LTD.

# September *Newsletter*

Chesley, On 519-363-3308/1-800-269-2561

## Summer Greetings Valued Customers,

Last fall was particularly wet and planting of winter forages such as winter triticale and winter rye was delayed or “mucked in” resulting in reduced yields this spring. Also first cut alfalfa and grass volume was low as well and now we are experiencing a drought in many areas of Ontario so not only may existing hay, haylage and cereal type forage be in tight supply but possibly corn silage as well. But let’s not despair because as we all know farmers are the eternal optimists. Here I will discuss **summer planted forages** with some tips on making the concept a successful one and therefore provide enough forage for your dairy operation to make it through till next year.

### PLANTING

Fields to plant into include wheat, barley, spring grain stubble as well as tired and depleted hay fields that were very low yielding and may not produce much in terms of 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> cuts. If you are planting into an existing hay field which is not as common as wheat stubble then highly recommend that you spray the field first to kill off the alfalfa and grass before planting. If a bit of alfalfa & grass comes back then that’s okay but if you don’t spray first then the hay crop will use up the much needed moisture for germination and development plus crowd and out-compete the new plants resulting in a lower yield. Some believed that keeping the hay field alive and planting-in to “thicken up” the field is a good idea however trial and error has taught us to spray the hay field first.

Crops to plant as summer-planted & fall-harvested forage include oats & peas (separate or mixed & generally O&P forage is the highest in protein when harvested at the correct maturity), barley, sorghum or sudan grass (both offer exceptional yields), triticale, barley and also forage soybeans. These crops can be grown individually and some can be grown in combination with each other. Oat crops are susceptible to rust so applying a fungicide is a good idea. Good idea to consult with someone first before mixing and combining crops into one field. Many prefer sorghum and sudan grass although they should

**Cluster buster  
Fly traps**

reg \$19.95

**now**

**\$5.00**



## **HYDRATED LIME ALERT**

Due to supply issues with our current supplier of Hydrated Lime (Spray Lime) we will be switching over the next month to:

### **Hi Cal Hydrated Lime**

More caution is advised due to the high concentration. This product is more caustic so handle with care. That being said, the Hi Cal Lime also proves more effective for sanitizing. Pricing should stay similar but number of bags per pallet will change so be advised when ordering.

## **Need silo covers for fall harvesting?**

### **Lots of sizes still in stock**

*Needing a few bags? Run out of feed for the weekend? We have an extensive line of feed, salt, twine garden soils and more in stock at our main street location. There is ample parking in the lot behind our store and our staff is able to load your bags for you. Not able to come in the store during store hours? We can make arrangements for pickup, just call us ahead.*

Some producers will lightly cultivate the field once especially if manure has been applied however most simply no-till plant with one pass direct into the stubble.

Seeding rates vary depending on the crop but typically range from 75 to 120 lbs of seed per acre.

Fertilizing with nitrogen at around 100 lbs N per acre depending on the field history and manure application etc is recommended to boost both yield and protein content.

Very important is a good germination since the ground is very dry so try to time planting just before a rain and if not consider planting a little deeper to plant into ground with sufficient moisture for germination.

### HARVESTING

Growing time is typically around 55 – 60 days after planting so generally early October for cutting & chopping.

The cooler fall weather means that the plants mature at a slower rate so there is a larger harvest window in which to cut and by the same token these crops can withstand a longer laying-time after cutting and before chopping in order to get the crop dry enough for proper storage. Therefore patience is required to wait for the ideal time to cut and then more patience is required to wait until the crop is dry enough to chop. We generally get some very nice weather just before Thanksgiving so wait for a nice sunny, dry period with at least 3-4 days of sunny weather. If the crop yield is very high and the plants are very succulent then quite often longer laying-time is required. Also if your field gets a shower after cutting then wait for the crop to dry before harvesting. Avoid harvesting at over 65% moisture to prevent butyric acid or other bad agents from developing in the stored forage. Some fields I know have laid on the ground for 2 weeks after cutting and still turned out very good. Recommend that you lay the crop out flat for maximum sun exposure and then do not merge or rake until just prior to harvest. Rain after merging and before chopping can be a problem.

Consider applying a good quality forage inoculant to help with fermentation.

### ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Double cropping with summer-planted forage makes good economic sense when we consider rising input costs and also land prices. Plus these crops can utilize nutrients in the soil that otherwise may not be available to crops grown in the following year. Most importantly they can provide home – grown forage in the event that your does not have enough traditional hay, haylage ad corn silage. Much of the information above is gathered from my own experience working with customers who have already been growing these crops and with good success. Feel free to reach out for further information.

**Don Haycock**

*Technical Specialist - Dairy*

**Wallenstein Feed & Supply Ltd.**

**WATER SOFTENER SALT  
SALE FOR THE MONTH OF  
SEPTEMBER**

**\$7.29/ BAG**

**(REG. \$8.29)**



**SEPTEMBER 8, 12,  
AND 13TH**

**10AM - 1PM EACH DAY**

Please bring three representative corn stalks bundled with string and labelled with the name/type

### Locations:

**8<sup>th</sup>**

**FARM OF MURRAY  
BOWMAN**

7388 Sideroad 2 E, Mount  
Forrest, ON

**12<sup>th</sup>**

**FARM OF DOUG & AARON  
LEGGE**

015376 Grey Bruce Line,  
Chesley, ON

**13<sup>th</sup>**

**WALTERS FALLS MILLING  
LTD.**

124 Victoria St., Walters Falls,  
ON