Agricultural Newsletter

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Inside this Issue

Improving The Productivity Of Pastures

Bill Saumer
Area Agricultural Agent
Burnett, Sawyer, & Washburn Counties

This year, many livestock producers are facing forage quality and quantity deficiencies due to the weather conditions we have experienced in the past 10-12 months. Many dairy producers rely on top quality home-raised forages such as alfalfa for maximum production and reduced out-of-pocket feed costs. However, this past winter took out much of the alfalfa stands in the area. Beef and other livestock producers are less dependent on legume production, but even the grasses have been hurt. Most beef producers and an increasing number of dairy farmers are utilizing pastures for their production. This article looks at ways to improve pasture productivity, and much of it comes from Paul R. Peterson, Extension Forage Specialist, Department of Agronomy and Plant Genetics, University of Minnesota.

Pastures are an underutilized and under-managed resource on many livestock and especially beef operations. Is it worthwhile to place more management emphasis on pastures? One might think that given the long winters we face, we have to rely so heavily on conserved forages anyway, that better management of pastures during the relatively short window they are usable may not be worth the effort. However, this argument is not valid for producers who are 1) interested in increasing profits, and 2) willing and able to commit more management effort.

Feed costs represent over 50% of the cost in a cow-calf operation. Well-managed pasture typically costs about one-third as much as home-grown hay to produce and feed. Thus, every additional day of grazing substantially reduces feed costs. In addition, grazed forage is typically higher in quality than stored forage. With pasture, animals graze the highest quality plant parts first; with conserved forage, unfortunately, the highest quality plant parts are what are typically lost to some degree during the conservation process. Pasture can be managed to produce better performance per animal or more output per acre, or sometimes both. Lastly, well-managed pasture begins growth earlier in the spring and continues to grow later in the fall, thereby extending the length of the grazing season.

There are a number of factors that should be considered in pasture improvement. Three of the key factors are 1) grazing management, 2) soil fertility, and 3) forage species selection.

Grazing Management

Implementation of controlled rotational grazing is the single most important step to improving long-term pasture productivity. Controlled rotational grazing involves the subdivision of large pastures into smaller pastures or paddocks and rotation of cattle through them. The word "controlled" is included to emphasize that the grazing system is controlled or managed by the producer, and not a rigid rotation that ignores the dynamics of

Continued on Page 2

(cont.)

plant growth and animal demand. Benefits of a controlled rotational grazing include:

1. Rest and recovery opportunity for plants, thus better forage production.
2. Greater persistence and vigor of desirable species.
3. More uniform defoliation of pastures which means less wasted forage and better control of residual height, thus less overgrazing.
4. Higher forage quality.
5. Reduced weed encroachment.
6. Better manure and urine distribution, thus lower maintenance fertilizer requirements.

When planning a controlled rotational grazing system, the goal is to graze a paddock for no more than seven consecutive days (i.e. grazing periods seven days or less). This minimizes the amount of new regrowth that is grazed, ensuring more vigorous regrowth during each paddock's rest period. During spring when pasture growth rate is at its highest, rest periods of two to three weeks are adequate. In contrast, as growth slows during summer, rest periods should be extended to 4 to as many as eight weeks depending upon climatic conditions. Thus, when planning a controlled rotational grazing system, plan on grazing cycles (grazing period plus rest period) averaging about five weeks.

The appropriate target heights at which to begin and end grazing in each paddock varies by forage species, time of year, animal, and goals. In general, from a pasture health standpoint, tall-growing grass-legume mixtures should be grazed when they reach 8-10", and cattle removed when grazed down to 3-4". The exception is an orchardgrass-legume pasture, which should be grazed down to 2-3" in order to reduce the tendency for orchardgrass to out-compete legumes. A bluegrass-white clover paddock should be grazed at 4-6" down to about 2".

What is the "ideal" number of paddocks for a controlled rotational grazing system for beef? The answer to this question depends primarily on the ability and interest of the producer to commit management time. At the most basic level, two pastures are better than one; in other words, any level of pasture subdivision is beneficial. For cow-calf operations, five to eight paddocks are probably enough to optimize animal and pasture performance. However, producers should consider creep grazing calves, especially as paddock numbers increase, in order to ensure that calves have "first dibs" at the highest quality forage. Stocker and dairy cattle pasture systems require eight or more paddocks in order to ensure that high quality forage is available at all times.

One of the most challenging times of year to manage pasture is during the spring flush. This is actually the time of year when a controlled rotational grazing system enables the producer to capture the most out of pasture. Approaches to effectively utilized the spring flush include 1) making hay off some of the paddocks, 2) increasing stocking rates, and/or 3) rotating through paddocks more rapidly.

Soil Fertility

Improving and maintaining soil fertility in pastures in another key step to increasing pasture productivity. Implementation of a controlled rotational grazing system is a key component of soil fertility management, because it "forces" grazing animals to distribute their manure and urine more uniformly across the entire pasture. Since ruminants excrete most of the fertilizer nutrients that they consume, this helps to maintain soil fertility levels, thereby reducing maintenance fertilizer costs. Potassium (K), phosphorus (P), and pH are the soil fertility parameters that are probably of greatest importance to pasture improvement, primarily because of their influence on legume persistence. Legumes are an essential component of productive pastures because they fix atmospheric nitrogen, are high in quality, and are more productive during the summer than grasses. Sensitivity to low pH, and low P and K is greatest for alfalfa; intermediate for red clover, Kura clover, and Ladino clover; and least for birdsfoot trefoil and white clover.

Mid to late summer is the key time to consider application of nitrogen fertilizer, since summer and fall more frequently experience pasture shortage than spring. Nitrogen fertilizer should not be applied in spring unless you plan to make hay or increase stocking rates. In pasture systems, we often have more growth than we can effectively utilize during the spring; application of N fertilizer in spring only makes this worse. Nitrogen should be used on grass pastures or grass-legume pastures where the legume component is not contributing significantly to pasture forage yield.

Forage Species Selection

Use of forage species and varieties adapted to the soils on the farm is critical to ensuring productive pasture. There are several strategies with regard to pasture species composition improvement. The most passive approach is to simply allow more productive, adapted species to express themselves by implementing controlled rotational grazing. The traditional, and probably most common approach is to introduce new forages alone or in simple mixtures. A third approach is to seed "shot-gun" mixtures.

There are a number of things to keep in mind when "building" mixtures to seed. First, if a sod-forming grass such as smooth bromegrass or quackgrass is not already present in the pasture, it is best to include one in the mixture, especially on wetter soils, in order to give the pasture a solid foundation tolerant of animal traffic during a range of weather conditions. Bunch grasses like orchardgrass or timothy are best used in combination with sod-forming grass. Although tall fescue has a number of positive features that warrant its use, it is one grass species that should NOT be seeded in combination with other grasses due to its lesser palatability. In most cases, a legume(s) should be included in the seed mixture as well, choosing the legume adapted to the soil conditions in the pasture.

Extending the Grazing Season

Even though the pasture season may seem relatively short, there are opportunities to extend its duration. Implementation of controlled rotational grazing will extend the grazing season as healthier pasture plants will begin growing earlier in the spring and continue to growth later in the fall. Applying nitrogen fertilizer to some grass paddocks during mid-summer and stockpiling the growth until fall is an effective way to extend grazing later into the fall months.

Any perennial forage species can be stockpiled, but grasses, and in particular tall fescue, are best adapted to this management practice. The process is initiated by taking a hay cutting or removing cattle from the area to be stockpiled and applying 50 to 75 lb. N/ac. This is a good time to apply P and K, if needed, too. Strip-grazing should be implemented to utilized the stockpiled growth. This can be accomplished via portable electric fencing. Allocate no more than seven days of stockpiled feed per grazing period; this will increase the carrying capacity of the area by as much as 40%. Yield and forage quality of the stockpiled growth will begin to decline after the first hard frost; rate of this decline is slowest with tall fescue and most rapid with legumes. It is important to be aware that energy content will decline more rapidly than protein content, thus supplementation strategies should be focused on meeting energy requirements.

Injection-site quality control is important

John Markus
Area Agricultural Agent
Ashland & Bayfield Counties

Injection-site lesions should be a major concern for any beef producer. These lesions, or scars, result from tissue irritation caused by the administration of intramuscular injections. When these defects occur, meat processors must trim and discard the damaged tissue, reducing the marketability and economic value of the carcass.

Here are six tips to help you improve beef quality:

1. Administer all injectable products in the neck or shoulder region, not in the round. By doing so, you can help prevent defects from occurring.
2. Follow instructions. Read the label and labeling information before administering any animal health product.
3. Avoid intramuscular (IM) injections whenever other labeled routes of administration are available.
4. Products approved for subcutaneous injections should be administered using the tenting technique. Clasp the animal's hide between your fingers and lift, then inject the product into the tent.
5. Never mix products. Mixing products can cause unnecessary tissue damage and may reduce the efficacy of the products administered and extend withdrawal periods.
6. Ask your supplier to provide sufficient documentation showing that their injectable animal health product does not cause tissue damage.

Source: Drovers

FSA update

Kathy Brihn
Farm Service Agency

Crop Reports Due: Farmers must submit crop reports in order to receive DSP payments. These reports are due by July 15th! Note: This is a change from previous years.

FSA Disaster Program: Applications are being accepted for the 2001/2002 Crop Disaster Program. Producers will be reimbursed for qualifying crop production and quality losses to crops for either the 2001 or 2002 crops. Losses must exceed 35 percent of the farms' insured actual production history or the county average yield, whichever is higher or for uninsured crops, the county average yield. Payments will be issued for losses exceeding 35 percent of expected production.

FSA LDPs are Starting: Producers of small grains, whether harvested for grain or forage, are reminded to watch for LDP rates on small grains. If the prices drop and LDP payments are favorable, producers should apply for Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP) before feeding these grains or forages or before selling. A form CCC-709 must be filed at our office before any commodity is sold or fed directly off the field or you will lose the LDP payments on that production.

If the crop is stored, you must apply for LDPs on the date you feel the posted county price is favorable. As quantities of grain are fed or disposed of they become ineligible for LDP.

Farmers markets are seeking vendors

Kevin Schoessow
Area Agricultural Development Agent
Burnett, Sawyer, & Washburn Counties

Two new Farmers Markets have recently been organized in Northwest Wisconsin. The Hayward Area Farmers Market is held at the Sawyer County Fairgrounds located 1.5 miles east of Hayward on County. Hwy. B. and is open every Monday morning from 8 a.m. to Noon. The Spooner Area Farmers Market is located on the corner of Beaverbrook Rd. and U.S. Hwy. 63, in the old Hardee's Parking lot. and is held every Saturday morning from 8 a.m. to Noon.

If you grow, produce, or harvest vegetables, fruits, flowers, meats, eggs, cheese, jam, jellies or other homemade or homegrown products you are more than welcome to sell at either of these Markets. The mission of both markets is to provide quality locally grown or raised products to the public and to support the efforts of area farmers, gardeners and growers.

For more information about the Hayward Area Farmers Market contact Laura Berlage, Hayward Farmers Market Manager, at 715-462-3453. For more information about the Spooner Farmers Market, or for more information on Direct Marketing Ag Products contact Kevin Schoessow, Area Ag Development Agent, at 1-800-528-1914, or 715-635-3506.

Harvesting sorghum forage during dry weather

Tom Syverud
Extension and Outreach Educator
Ashland Ag Research Station

If you planted or are going to plant a forage sorghum, sudangrass grass, or a sorghum-sudangrass hybrid for a dry weather crop or for an emergency forage crop, be aware that these crops can present some feeding problems later after harvest.

These crops, particularly in a young stage, contain an alkaloid which breaks down into prussic acid. Also when harvesting during periods of drought or after frost, these crops can accumulate nitrates. High levels of nitrogen fertilization will increase the likelihood of prussic acid poisoning as well as nitrite poisoning. Both of these compounds are toxic to livestock. Generally when ensiling these crops, the toxic levels drop to safe levels in two to three weeks.

Do not leave green chop in a wagon over night and then feed. The forage can then be tested, mixed with other forages and introduced into the diet slowly to minimize problems. It is recommended that these crops are not more than 50% of the forage for dairy cattle. Beef cattle can be fed a higher level. Forage yields can be a high as corn, however, the silage has with less energy and digestibility. Protein levels can be 8 - 12% and digestibility 50 to 70%.

Deadline extended for non-Starlink claims

John Markus
Area Agricultural Agent
Ashland & Bayfield Counties

All farmers who harvested corn for grain in any of the years 1998 – 2002 and have not submitted a claim for the non-Starlink farmers settlement still have time to do so to claim their share of the $110,000,000 settlement.

The original deadline of May 31 for submission of "Corn Loss" claims has been extended to July 31, 21003. Many farmers were unable to access the website in the final days before the last deadline due to extremely heavy traffic on the website.

The current estimate from the official Non-StarLink Farmer Litigation website estimates that the payments for the "Corn Loss" claims will be at least $1.50 per acre of corn harvested for gain in the year 2000. The actual amount will not be known until all claims are processed after the new July 31, 2003, deadline. Any farmer who harvested corn for grain in 2000 is eligible for a share of the settlement. Most farmers qualify for the corn loss claim. Producers that did not harvest corn in 2000 may qualify for a greatly reduced payment for "Corn Loss."

Full details about the StarLink settlement and procedures for filing your claim are available by going to the following website: *www.non-starlinkfarmerssettlement.com*.

Potato Field Day

The Potato Field Day is Thursday, August 21st. Area commercial potato growers are welcome to attend. Potato Research at the Spooner Ag Research Station include: Seed treatment, furrow treatment, herbicide, and variety trials. Also we have a location with subsoiling effects on plant & root growth and a herbicide mode of action demonstration. Contact Phil Holman at 635-3735 for more information.

Spooner Ag Research Station crop update

Phil Holman
Asst. Superintendent
Spooner Ag Research Station

Alfalfa: After noting the alfalfa looked good in March, two ice storms damaged our alfalfa. The 2000 planting of the Alfalfa variety trial averaged 0.76 tons of dry matter per acres. This is about half of what is normal. One new seeding and four older stands were plowed up. Second crop is looking better so far, however we did have to spray for potato leafhoppers.

New Seeding Alfalfa: Direct-seeded looks good and we should get a harvest or two yet this year. These fields were also sprayed for potato leafhopper since leafhopper damage in the seeding year decreases yields throughout the life of the stand.

Corn: All the corn was planted in late April and early May. The corn was waist to shoulder high by the 4th of July. Populations look good.

Oats: Certified Moraine oats was planted on April 14th and 15th. The next day was one of the ice storms. It headed out in late June and the plan is to seed more alfalfa after harvesting the oats.

Plots of interest:

9-1-1 Emergency Forages: With the alfalfa winterkill this is a timely plot. Last year the University of Minnesota had two locations testing out different alternative forages. This year there are locations in Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin. This trial has three different maturity corns for silage, brown mid-rib forage sorghum, sudangrass, sorghum-sudan, Japanese millet, pearl millet, forage barley, peas & oats, peas & barley, two maturities of soybeans for forage, and two foxtail millets. All are planted at three timings of early May, early June, and early July.

Manure & Tillage in Corn: This study looks at the dilemma of growing corn while meet-

ing a conservation plan and having to apply manure. Two rates of dairy manure were applied to corn stalks with conventional, chisel & discing, discing, strip, or no tillage as the different tillages. So far there is noticeable differences in plant populations based on tillages and based on the rate of manure (0, 15, or 30 tons/acre).

Transition to Organic Corn: An untreated organic corn variety was planted on four different dates (4/29; 5/13; 5/27; & 6/9). Each planting date has areas with different plant populations ranging from 18,000 to 36,000 plants per acre. No starter or sidedress fertilizers were used and only cultivation for weed control.

- Results of these studies will be available after harvest.
- If you are interested in seeing one of these studies or any of the other research plots at the Spooner Ag Research Station you are welcome to stop in. Call ahead 635-3735 to be sure someone is able to give a guided tour.

Are you looking for or want to sell hay?

Bill Saumer
Area Agricultural Agent
Burnett, Sawyer, & Washburn Counties

If you are looking to buy hay to make up for the reduced quality or quantity of your first cutting, or if you are looking to sell hay, check out the Minnesota Haylist. There are currently over 600 seller lots listed with more being added every day. It is a free service and all types of hay and all bale sizes are represented.

The Haylist website is www.haylist.umn.edu and it is used by producers all over Minnesota, Wisconsin and surrounding states. Call me if you have questions regarding the Haylist website or if you do not have computer access.

There are many producers looking for good quality hay and if you have some to sell, register on the haylist or at least give me a call and let me know what you have so I can refer you to someone in need of hay.

Sheep Day meets the demands of a new clientele

Yves Berger
Superintendent
Spooner Ag Research Station

After 50 years of uninterrupted Spooner Sheep Days, the time has come for a small change. Since the Spooner Ag Research Station is doing more and more research work on dairy sheep and milk production, it seems natural that a field day focused solely on dairy sheep be organized in order to respond to the specific needs of this new industry.

Non-dairy sheep producers, however, will still be able to benefit from the more traditional Spooner Sheep Day since it will take place every other year; in alternate years with the Spooner Sheep Dairy Day.

Of course all sheep producers, dairy and non-dairy, and other interested persons are invited to attend the first Spooner Sheep Dairy Day at the Spooner Ag Research Station on August 23, 2003.

The program will begin at 8:00 a.m. with registration and will continue throughout the morning with presentations from Dave Thomas, Professor, UW-Madison Dept. of Animal Sciences; Chris Schneider, Graduate Research Assistant, UW-Madison Dept. of Animal Sciences; and Yves Berger, Superintendent, Spooner Ag Research Station. After a noon lamb barbecue luncheon, the afternoon session will be conducted on the grounds with a pasture walk by Ken Albrecht, Professor, UW-Madison Dept. of Agronomy; and a discussion of milking techniques with current sheep dairy producers.

Pre-registration for the luncheon is preferred. Meals will be $5.00 per person if pre-registered before August 15, but will be $10.00 if purchased at the door. Please use the form at the right to pre-register.

If you would like additional information, feel free to contact the Spooner Ag Research Station at 715-635-3735.

Sheep Dairy Day Pre-Registration

✔ for each lunch requested and indicate name

□ Name: _____ $5.00

□ Name: _____ $5.00

□ Name: _____ $5.00

□ Name: _____ $5.00

□ Name: _____ $5.00

□ Name: _____ $5.00

Total: _____

_____
Name

_____
Address

_____

_____

_____

_____
Phone

No. of people attending: _____

The program is free, but pre-registration is preferred.

Lamb barbecue luncheon is $5.00 if pre registered before August 15, 2003. If paid at the door, the meal price will be $10.00.

Make checks payable to UW-Madison. Pre-registrations should be mailed to:

Lorraine Toman
Spooner Agricultural Research Station
W6646 Highway 70
Spooner, WI 54801

Phone: 715-635-3735
Fax: 715-635-6741
Email: lltoman@wisc.edu

Northwest Clean-Sweep sets local collection dates

Jen Barton
Northwest Regional Planning Commission

Almost every home and farm contains hazardous products, or products that can harm human and animal health or the environment if improperly handled. Such products include those used in cleaning, home improvements, lawn and garden care, farming, automotive care and hobbies.

Each year, exposure or accidents involving hazardous household products injure thousands of people. Because of the dangers they pose, these products require special awareness, handling and disposal. In order to protect our health and the environment, every consumer should know how to properly use, store, and dispose of hazardous household products.

The Northwest Cleansweep program promotes the safe use, storage and disposal of hazardous materials by educating consumers to:

- identify and avoid potentially hazardous products
- buy only what is needed, use it completely or share leftovers with someone who can use it
- recycle those materials that can be recycled
- dispose of leftover or unwanted products through hazardous waste collection facilities
- choose to buy the least hazardous product to get the job done

Washburn and Burnett counties will be hosting special mobile hazardous waste collections this summer and all county residents are encouraged to participate. The products being accepted free of charge to households are: oil-based paint, antifreeze, pesticides and herbicides, batteries (rechargeable and button only), household cleaners, old gasoline and aerosols. There will be a nominal charge for items such as fluorescent and high-density light bulbs, oil filters and computer systems. Businesses and farmers are also encouraged to participate in these summer events. The service is free to farmers, with a nominal fee imposed for businesses. Registration is encouraged for both businesses and farmers. The events are as follows:

July 14 - Winter, Round Lake, and Stone Lake. Call Dave Berard (715-634-4839) for details.

August 2 - Washburn and Iron River. Call Jan Victorson (715-373-6113) for details.

August 7 - Butternut & Mellen. Call Jane Silberstein (715-682-7017) for details.

August 9 - Hayward County Highway Shop, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dave Berard 715-634-4839.

August 16 - Siren County Highway Shop, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Rick Schneider, 715-635-2197.

September 6 - Spooner HHW Storage Site, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Rick Schneider, 715-635-2197.

Used motor oil will not be accepted at these events, however Spooner Auto and Truck Repair (located at 322 River Street in Spooner), Minong Transfer Station and Grantsburg Recycling Center do accept used motor oil that is free of water, antifreeze or any other substances. This service is free of charge.

Any questions or comments will be answered by calling Bill Welter at Northwest Regional Planning Commission 635-2197.

We're on the Web!

You may find this newsletter, our gardener's newsletter, and additional information on our upcoming events by visiting the websites of the **Spooner Agricultural Research Station:**

http://www.uwex.edu/ces/sars/index.htm

and the **Ashland Agricultural Research Station**:

http://www.uwex.edu/ces/aars/

Late summer seeding alfalfa

Bill Saumer
Area Agricultural Agent
Burnett, Washburn, & Sawyer Counties

As most of you are aware, we had some pretty hard kills of alfalfa as a result of no snow and cold soil temperatures this past winter. Many producers have already spring seeded alfalfa, but many are looking at still establishing more alfalfa this summer. In the past this practice was referred to as fall seeding, but fall is actually too late for many fields to become established and produce enough growth and vigor to survive the upcoming winter. This article is not going to cover all of the aspects regarding late summer seeding alfalfa, but it should answer some of the questions producers may have that will influence their management decisions.

I often get calls from producers who want to know what is the best variety for their farm. There are many good varieties out there as well as some poor ones and more in between. The variety or varieties that are right for any farm depend on many variables. Test results from seed companies should be compared with results from university research, especially from locations that have a similar climate and soil type to the farm that is to be planted. Don't be afraid to look across state borders to see other states' research if they have a similar climate and soil type.

Specific factors to look at also depend on your soil fertility, crop rotation, quality and quantity of the desired forage, type of livestock, harvesting strategies and previous successes and disease problems. Once these are all in focus, then it becomes a little easier to match possible seed choices by finding which varieties have the desired winter hardiness, fall dormancy, yield potential, forage quality, disease resistance, growth characteristics and seed costs.

Many companies sell blends, which are a mixture of two or more varieties, at a reduced price from named varieties. Blends may perform as well as the best varieties or may do very poorly. Since blends may have been derived in various ways, their performance depends on the skill and integrity of the seed company. Disease resistance, winter survival and other characteristics may change within a blend from lot to lot or year to year. Using certified seed of adapted, high yielding varieties is least risky and a more predictable performance outcome is assured. For plow-down crops or if the alfalfa stand is only a short rotation like two years, then blends may not necessarily be a bad choice. However, if top production yields, stand longevity and quality forage are goals, especially for a dairy herd, seeding proven, name-brand seeds is most likely the way to go.

And now for some of the most often asked questions this time of year, how much alfalfa should I seed and how late can I plant it? Alfalfa weighs 60 pounds per bushel and has 220,000 seeds per pound. A desired planting rate if alfalfa is seeded alone would be 55 plants per square foot, which equates to 11 pounds of seed per acre. If the alfalfa is seeded with grass, the desired seeding rate would be 35 plants per square foot, which equates to seven pounds of alfalfa seed per acre. Remember, not all seeds germinate and become established because even under supposedly ideal conditions, as many as half of the seeds won't make it. The choice of varieties also depends on what kind of weather we will have. Many grasses need cooler weather to become established and if August gets really hot, it will be a challenge for new seeding.

The planting date is dependent on the calendar as well as the weather that is yet to come. We all know that weather forecasters can have a very difficult time trying to get an accurate forecast, especially in the two day and beyond category. This makes it more difficult to say how late alfalfa can be seeded weather-wise. The calendar dates we can look at are late summer and in our neck of the woods we are looking at early August as prime for establishing alfalfa. Every day after around August 15th becomes increasingly risky for seeding alfalfa. Most years the cut-off date is around the 20th. Some years, however, summer lingers on and the onset of fall is delayed. If a producer has some kind of intuition that this year is going to have a delayed fall, then the planting dates could be extended somewhat. The key to remember is that the later the planting date, the greater the chance for failure and that can be very costly.

I did not mention many other important factors associated with alfalfa establishment and if you want to know the whole story, give me or your local trusted agronomist a call. Soil testing is extremely important and if a producer has not soil sampled every field in the past three years, it is a must, especially for pH sensitive crops like alfalfa. The test will show how much lime is needed and even if a farmer is not late summer seeding alfalfa, but is thinking about next year, soil test now. That way lime can applied this fall and it will help create increased opportunities for each of those 220,000 seeds per pound to germinate and have a successful growing season next year.

This Quarter's Events

July 14, 2003, Ag CleanSweep at Winter, Round Lake, and Stone Lake.

July 24-27, 2003, Washburn County Junior Fair, Spooner.

July 31- August 3, 2003, Sawyer County Fair, Hayward.

August 1-3, 2003, Iron County Fair, Saxon.

August 2, 2003, Ag Clean-Sweep at Washburn & Iron River.

August 7, 2003, Ag Clean-Sweep at Butternut & Mellen.

August 7-10, 2003, Bayfield County Fair, Iron River.

August 9, 2003, Ag Clean-sweep at Hayward County Highway Shop.

August 16, 2003, Ag Clean-Sweep at Siren County Highway Shop.

August 21, 2003, Potato Growers Field Day, Spooner Ag Research Station.

August 21-24, 2003, Grantsburg Fair.

August 23, 2003, Spooner Sheep Dairy Day, Spooner Ag Research Station.

August 27, 2003, Twilight Garden Tour, Ashland Ag Research Station.

August 28, 2003, Twilight Garden Tour, Spooner Ag Research Station.

August 28-September 1, 2003, Ashland County Fair, Marengo.

September 6, 2003, Ag Clean-Sweep at Spooner HHW Storage site.

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