

2006
August



UW — EXTENSION — LANGLADE COUNTY

Langlade Ag-Letter

Langlade County UW Extension Research Farm Field Day



We're looking forward to hosting another field day at the Langlade County Research Farm on August 9. We will begin the tour promptly at 1:30 p.m. loading the wagons for a 2 hour narrative about the research experiments.

Directly following the tour there will be a slight change to tradition as we will be moving the food to the fairgrounds' Multipurpose building. This will allow producers wishing to make comment on Ag156 to do so in the Clover Room.

Because the Dept. of Ag is unable to change the date, we need to work around this. They have offered to extend the comment period beyond 5:00 p.m. to

enable us to better accommodate both programs. The meal and refreshments will be again provided by Servco FS Cooperative.

The tour will feature this years research at the farm including:

Refining Disease Forecasting Methods Using Site Specific Weather Information
- Walt Stevenson

The Wisconsin Potato Variety and Advanced Selection Evaluation Trial
- Chuck Kostichka.

Potato Vine Dessication Trial
- AJ Bussan

Influence of Seed Tuber Maturity on Stem Set in 3 Potato Varieties
- AJ Bussan

New and Potential Potato Herbicide Rotation Study
- Jed Colquhoun

Potato Phosphorus Study
- Carrie Laboski

Evaluation of Potato Cultivars and Breeding Lines for Field Susceptibility to Common Scab
- Walt Stevenson

Inside this issue:

Soybean Silage	2
Fall Seeding Grasses	3
Beef cattle traceback	3
Green Weevil	4

<http://Langlade.uwex.edu/ag/>

Dates to Remember:

August 9

Langlade County Research Farm Field Day
1:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

DATCP AG156 Hearing, Clover Room
2:30 p.m.—5:00 p.m. (Extension possible)

August 17

Central WI Graziers Bus Tour to Charlie Opitz farm

August 20-26

World Potato Congress and Farm Show

Soybean Silage for Drought Affected Beans

Contributors: Dan Undersander, Kevin Jarvik, Tom Anderson, Nick Schneider, and Lee Milligan

Drought often raises the issue of harvesting soybean fields for forage due to forage shortage and low yield grain yield potential of the soybeans. Little information is available concerning soybean silage. Therefore a number of farmers who had made soybean silage during the winter of 2005 were surveyed and the silage was sampled for analysis. What follows is a report of farmer experience with soybean silage.

Generally the recommendation has been to harvest at the R3 stage (when one of the four top nodes with a fully developed leaf has a 3/16 inch long pod). Harvesting earlier results in reduced dry matter and harvesting later results in seed shatter and reduced forage quality. Most of the farmers surveyed had harvested the forage at the R3 to R4 stage.

Standing soybean forage was generally at about 80% moisture at this stage and needed to be mowed and wilted to dry down to 65% moisture for ensiling. The farmers were able to mow and condition with their standard mower/conditioners, though they often needed to go slower than normal. Farmers also noted that flail conditioners caused more damage to the soybean than roller conditioners. Drying time generally took 2 to 3 days in the late fall. Forage yield averaged 1.5 tons/acre, ranging from 1.0 to 2.25 t/a. Silage was made in oxygen limiting silos, plastic bags and bunkers. Forage should be chopped with a 3/8 inch theoretical length of cut for good packing. Silage of farmers

surveyed was generally in the correct moisture range (table 1) and fermented well. Forage quality was generally similar to alfalfa haylage.

Some farmers mixed the soybean silage with other crops including 3rd crop alfalfa, corn silage, sorghum-sudangrass, and triticale. Alfalfa mixed with the soybean silage had no effect on forage quality. Sorghum-sudangrass, corn silage, and triticale all lowered the quality of the silage.

We generally recommend that forages be ensiled separately (easily done with silage tubes) and mixed at the time of feeding rather than ensiling. This gives the operator has more flexibility mixing the ration according to needs of the animals being fed and quality of the ensiled material. Farmers were asked how animals consumed and performed on soybean silage. Of the farms surveyed (table 2), in only one case was feed intake decreased and there was no problem with sorting stems from leaves – likely due to the fine chop used. Most importantly, in no case was there any discernable difference in performance when animals were fed soybean silage.

In summary, making soybean silage may be a good opportunity for farmers short of forage due to drought. The following recommendations will provide successful soybean silage experience: Talk to your Crop Insurance adjuster before harvesting any insured soybeans for forage. You could forfeit a lot of money you would have

Table 1. Forage quality of soybean silage not mixed with other crops

Component	Mean	Minimum	Maximum
%, Dry matter basis			
DM	37.1	30.8	45.8
CP	20.7	18.1	24.0
ADF	31.9	29.7	36.2
NDF	39.0	33.0	47.5
NDFD	44.3	42.0	48.4

otherwise received. Make sure any herbicides used on the soybeans are cleared for feeding to cattle. Harvest soybeans at R3 stage - when one of the four top nodes with a fully developed leaf has a 3/16 inch long pod. Wilt forage to 35% dry matter before ensiling. Producers felt soybean whole plant moisture was difficult to judge in the field, therefore testing is well worth the expense.

Table 2. Effect of soybean silage on feed intake, stem sorting, and milk production

Type animals fed	Feed intake	Sorting	Effect on milk production
Milking cows,	Stayed same	None	None
Dry cows, heifers	Stayed same	None	N/A
Dry cows and heifers	Stayed same	None	N/A
Milking cows	Decreased	None	None
Milking cows, heifers	Stayed same	None	None
Milking, Dry & heifers	Stayed same	None	None
Milking cows	Stayed same	None	None

Fall Seeding Grasses

Dan Undersander,
Forage Agronomist UW Extension

Late-summer/fall establishment of grass is often desired in the Midwest. Most farmers do not realize how much fall seeding date affects the yield of the grasses the next year. We seeded six forage grasses at several late summer dates at three sites in Wisconsin (River Falls, Arlington, and Lancaster) over three years. Seeding dates were spaced approximately every 2 to 3 weeks from late about August 1 to late November 1. Species included orchardgrass, smooth brome grass, timothy, reed canarygrass, perennial ryegrass, and tall fescue.

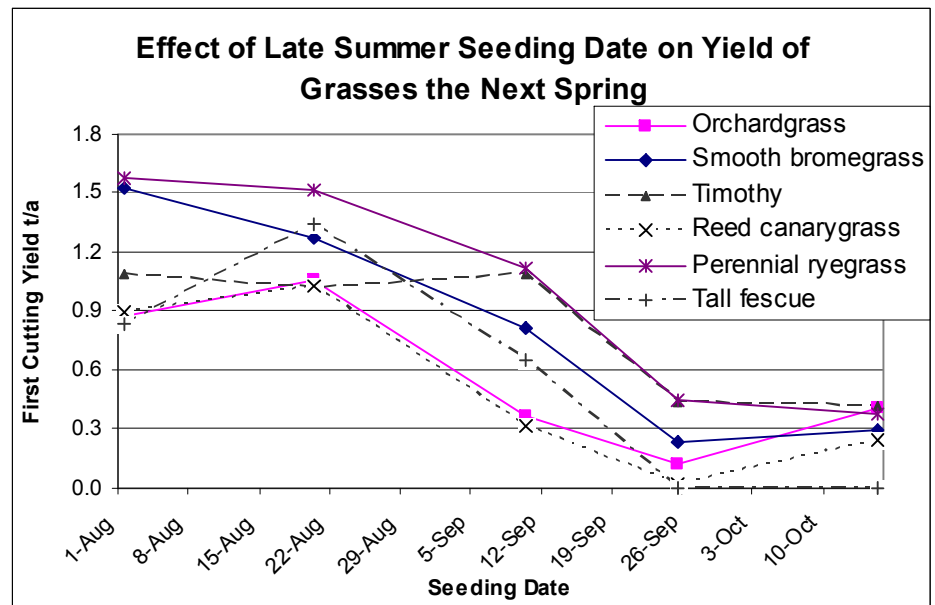
All of the grasses seeded by mid- to late-September produced stands with visible plants by killing frost most years and that usually survived the winter. Later seedings did not produce visible plants until spring, if at all. Slow establishing species, particularly reed canarygrass, produced better stands when seeded by early September. Timothy tended to be the most variable with regard to seeding date and next year yield. In only one trial out of nine did a November seeding, where the seed lay dormant over winter, produce a

stand the next spring.

The most important finding is that earlier seeding dates (early through mid August) usually had more tillers per square foot, more tillers per plant, and higher dry matter yield the following season. As shown, in the figure, average first cutting yields of grasses the spring after late summer seeding, when harvested at the boot stage, ranged from 1.5 t/a for some grasses down to less than 0.5 t/a on first cutting depending on when they were sown the previous fall. By later cuttings

the stands had recovered and all yielded well. However, delaying late summer seeding from mid August to mid September generally resulted in 1 ton/acre less yield the next year.

This study clearly shows that delaying grass seeding in the late summer or early fall not only increases the risk of establishment failure but reduces yield of the stand the next year. Therefore we recommend seeding grasses as early as possible during the month of August.



Cattle Traceback Helps on World Beef Markets

A mandatory cattle traceback system will help underpin demand for Australian beef in Japan when it lifts import bans on U.S. product, Malcolm Foster, President of the Australian Lotfeeders' Association, said Tuesday. Australia's National livestock Identification System has "set the benchmark" in Japan, its biggest beef export market, and other things being equal is a significant factor in supporting purchases overseas of

Australian beef, he said. "We're an exporting nation, we've got to keep our systems going, keep ahead of the game and keep coming up with new ideas and reasons why our product is superior," Foster said in an interview with Dow Jones Newswires. "It's the greatest thing we ever did," he said of traceback, which was introduced across Australia in July 2005, and enables individual animals to be tracked from property

of birth to slaughter for food safety, product integrity and market access purposes. The industry acknowledges traceback won't prevent a disease outbreak or residue incident, but it will be able to reduce the financial and social impact of a disease epidemic due to its accurate identification and rapid traceability capabilities. Australia is the biggest global exporter of beef after Brazil.

New Weevil Probably Not a Big Deal



Langlade County

Phone: (715)627-6313
Fax: (715) 627-6260
Email: alex.crockford@ces.uwex.edu
<http://langlade.uwex.edu>

Through the **University of Wisconsin-Extension**, all Wisconsin people can access university resources and engage in lifelong learning, wherever they live and work.

GREEN WEEVILS


In many spots in Northern and central Wisconsin people are finding large numbers of a bright green weevil. It has no official common name but is an imported species *Polydrusus impressifrons*. It feeds on willow birch, poplar, plum, and apple. It will eat small half-moon spots into the edges of leaves. It has also been found on strawberry leaves. Adults can be crawling on many plants

but control is only suggested if damage is severe, which is not likely.



"An EEO/Affirmative Action employer, University of Wisconsin-Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title IX and ADA. Please make requests for reasonable accommodations to ensure equal access to educational programs as early as possible preceding the scheduled program, service or activity. This document can be provided in an alternative format by calling UW-Extension at 715/748-3327 or 711 for Wisconsin Relay."

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 33
ANTIGO, WI 54409


Learning for life
837 Clermont Street
PO Box 460
Antigo, WI 54409-0460