

# CropLinks

information on forages, corn and cereals

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This issue of CropLinks discusses some timely topics in corn herbicide choice and timings, septoria control in wheat, spring forage growing conditions and N rates for 2<sup>nd</sup> cut grasses. The key point, however is to encourage an earlier than normal start on orchardgrass, brome, reed canary, and most alfalfa fields that are NOW ready for harvest in the Valley area. If you want top quality dairy forage with high digestibility and milk performance then check your fields and go at harvest earlier than most years. Lastly take advantage of the rare opportunity to have an in-field session with one of the very best alfalfa experts, Dan Undersander on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Wish you great cropping!

## Great Winter Wheat Crop but Lots of Septoria?

Septoria leaf disease in winter wheat needs to be assessed soon. Most winter wheat will head out in the first week of June, so a decision needs to be made by then whether the level of septoria leaf disease may significantly reduce yields. If there's good yield potential but lots of septoria blotches (yellow-brown inoculum which spreads on the leaf and destroys photosynthetic area) then consider treatment. Remember the upper leaf and the head are the main solar collectors to aid in kernel filling, so keep these green and healthy during June-early July. If a fungicide treatment is needed, the recommended rate of Tilt (0.5 L/ha or 200 mils/acre) will provide 3-4 weeks septoria control. Another new systemic option is Folicur 432F which is registered for septoria and fusarium head blight (292 mils/hectare rate plus low rate of a non-ionic surfactant). Both products are priced similarly. Read label for pre-harvest interval timings and other key information. Wheat growers that used a fungicide on heavy septoria infections last year felt they had good payback in extra yield.

## Forage Field Day with Dan Undersander

Thursday June 22<sup>nd</sup>

Valley Tour 9:30 – 11:30am

(meet at Grand Pre/Acadian Interpretive Centre parking lot)

Central Nova Tour 2:00 – 4:00pm (meet at Stephen & Roy  
Nielson's farm, Fort Ellis Road, Stewiacke)

Come spend a couple of hours in the field with Dr. Dan Undersander, Forage Agronomist with the University of Wisconsin. Dan will be in the province on other business but has offered to spend some time out on farm. He conducts the largest forage variety trials in the U.S. He is considered a leading expert on forage production and forage utilization. Be sure to put this one on your calendar. More details from Jack (670-5777) or Bill (890-4555) in mid June.

## Cooler Weather is Good for Timothy Yield and Quality

Though it has long been known that higher temperatures during growth results in lower digestibility of both grasses and legumes, a recent study by Annick Bertrand et al, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Ste Foy, Quebec showed just how much cool temperatures during growth favours greater yield and nutritive value of timothy. The study assessed the effect of temperature on several factors including yield, water soluble carbohydrate levels, NDF, ADF, lignin and NDF digestibility. The timothy plants were grown in growth chambers under three day/night temperatures (17/5 °C, 22/10°C and 28/15 °C) and harvested at the early heading stage. Yield was 68% greater for the 17/5 °C day/night temperatures over the warmer 28/15 °C day/night temperatures. Though the cooler temperatures had no effect on the ADF, NDF or lignin concentrations, the cooler temperatures did improve NDF digestibility significantly (+96 g/kg DM). The results clearly show just how well adapted timothy is to our cool spring climate for both yield and digestibility.

## Are Wet Fields Inhibiting Corn Herbicide Timing

There have been lots of calls from corn growers who have planted between May 8-18<sup>th</sup> and are not able to get back on wet fields to apply pre-emerge corn herbicides. Before some fields are dry enough for spraying the corn may be emerged, so what are the options or strategies? Here are some points to consider in your decision making...

**1** If Converge Pro was the intended herbicide, it **can only be used pre-emerge** so if the corn has emerged then go to one of the other broad spectrum tank mixes listed in this article (the lower rate of this herbicide mixture retails at about \$5/acre more than Prowl-Atrazine).

**2** Prowl-Atrazine can be used up to the 4-leaf stage of corn. This mixture has a retail price that is \$10-15/acre less than most other broad spectrum options, but comes with the distinctive odor and staining. If there is heavy red root pigweed pressure in the field a light rate of Banvel II needs to be added to this tank-mix.

**3** Primextra-Banvel II can be used up to the 5-leaf stage of corn and when annual grasses are NOT beyond 2-leaf stage. Primextra-Callisto is a new option that can be used up to 2-leaf corn and prices out similar to Primextra-Banvel with the rebate program.

In a NSDA trial done in the Berwick area by Keith Silver in the mid 90's we saw less than 50% control of crabgrass with both Dual and Prowl when applied at the 2-leaf stage of corn and 2-leaf stage of grass weeds versus over 95% control when either of these herbicides were applied pre-emerge. So if you are starting to see 2-leaf annual grass weeds go to option 4 discussed below.

**4** For a strictly post-emerge full spectrum weed control, either Accent Total OR Accent-Pardner tank mixes are options to consider (both options require a non-ionic surfactant). The extra bonus of either Accent option is that there is also season long control of quackgrass along with annual weeds. Application of Accent during droughty conditions has caused crop inquiry. Accent Total is applied to corn in 2-8 leaf stage and when annual grasses are in the 1-6 leaf stage and quackgrass is 3-6 leaf. Accent-Pardner goes on when corn is 4-8 leaf stage and weeds are in the same stages as listed with Accent Total. The two Accent options price out at the same, and are about \$10/acre more than Prowl-Atrazine and about \$5/acre less than Primextra-Banvel II. Don't use Accent on silage corn fields that will planted to winter wheat right after harvest.

**5** The other possibility would be to trade in your conventional corn seed for Liberty Link or Roundup Ready seed, however this would likely be a lot of extra bookkeeping for your corn seed supplier and not really necessary with the options listed above.

Please note that comments in this article refer to field corn only, and not sweet corn. Retail price comparisons are from one supplier only and may differ slightly between others. Additional corn herbicide information can be obtained from AgraPoint staff, your crop protection supplier and from reviewing the product label or OMAFRA's Guide to Weed Control 2006-2007.

### Nitrogen Rates for 2nd Cut

For second cut grass you need to apply at least 50 kg/ha of nitrogen. This can be in the form of manure or chemical fertilizer. Most nutrient management planners recommend about 60 kg of N for second cut grass. Looking for a bigger yield, apply up to 70 kg if moisture is not limiting. For mixed stands with less than 40% legume use the same rate of N as you would for 100% grass. For mixed forage stands with more than 40% legume apply 0 to 50 kg of N. The more legumes in the stand, the less nitrogen needed.

### Pesticide Application Recertification Home Study Exam

AgraPoint is offering a new Pesticide Applicator Recertification home-study series for all agriculture producers in Nova Scotia. The first of three exams for 2006 is on spray drift and by **is due July 7<sup>th</sup>**. Producers can review the module and take the exam at their convenience, and with a passing grade of 75 per cent, will receive one-half a Pesticide Recertification Point (PRP). This will provide you more opportunity to get the necessary 15 PRP's over 5 years (with a maximum of 5 PRP/year). To access this home study training, a producer can print the factsheet and exam directly from the website or by calling the Resource Contact Centre toll-free at 1-866-606-4636 to have a copy mailed, e-mailed or faxed to them. Each home study exam will **only be accessible for two months**. Notification of new exams along with deadlines will be posted on AgraPoint's website, advertised in Farm Focus, and forwarded to commodity associations for communicating to their members. Visit our website for more details at [www.agrapoint.ca](http://www.agrapoint.ca) or contact our IPM Coordinator, Peter Burgess directly at (902) 896-0277 or [p.burgess@agrapoint.ca](mailto:p.burgess@agrapoint.ca)

### New Holland Hay Day and Barbeque

Wednesday July 19<sup>th</sup>  
Scothorn Equipment, Hardwoodlands  
1:00-4:00 pm: Field Demonstrations  
4:00-6:00 pm: Barbeque

With all the recent discussion on wide verses narrow swath width and which conditioner gives the best results, come see the various options available at New Holland Hay Day and Barbeque at Scotthorn Equipment, Hardwoodlands, Hants County. AgraPoint will be taking dry down measurement to determine which method is giving the most rapid drying. It should be an interesting afternoon.