



HAY NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE WASHINGTON STATE HAY GROWERS ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Well it seems like we just finished the "04" battle of wet first cutting, then more hay was damaged by rain the first week of August. Welcome to alfalfa farming. For the most part the alfalfa market has been much improved from 2003, most of the old inventory has been moved, quality has been better, acres and new inventory have been reduced.

However, the fun is not over for most of us, while still trying to put up quality hay this season we must deal with fall seeding of new alfalfa. The quality of your new fall seeding will impact your income until you rotate to a new crop. Rotation may occur sooner rather than later because of problems that could have been changed in the early stages of crop establishment. Some factors to consider would be seed bed condition, seeding method (drill, aerial, broadcast), timing (August, Sept., Oct., earlier is better), rate/acre, weed control, and mostly overlooked but most important is germination (germ) of desired variety.

The reason germ is the most important is that irregardless of all of the other factors if you have poor germ and are not aware of it you cannot adjust the rate/acre or will not obtain stronger (better) lot or variety seed before its too late (already in the ground 3 weeks). Germ and a lot number should be attached to all bags on a tag that is sewn in when the bag is filled. I would encourage you to save a couple of these tags and maybe a zip lock bag sample of the seed. A notation I like to add to the tag is the planting date and the field location. Another valuable tool is to ask your seed dealer for a fresh germ test.

Poor germ = poor stand = poor income.

For help in selecting a good variety you should visit the WSHGA/WSU seed variety trials operated by Tim Woodward in Pasco (509) 545-3511 or John Kugler in Ephrata (509) 754-2011 x413. Ask your dealer for information about variety performance in the trials.

We can't change the weather or the price of oil however we can change business as usual. Chep Gauntt, President, WSHGA

www.wa-hay.org

Check it out for the latest on research, import/export statistics, crop conditions and upcoming events.

HAY FOR SALE: List your "Hay For Sale" with the WSHGA. For only \$50.00 per year add your crop of alfalfa to the official WSHGA "Hay For Sale" website. For more information go to:
www.wa-hay.org.

ALFALFA HAY KING CONTEST

The annual Alfalfa Hay King Contest will be held at the Benton-Franklin County Fair again this year. Entries and three (3) bales of hay are due at the Benton-Franklin County Fairgrounds on Monday, August 23 between 1:00 and 6:00 p.m. All hay entries must be left for exhibit and are considered donated. Awards are supported by the proceeds of the sale of the donated hay.

Forage quality based on both NIRS analysis and visual judging will be determined from the three bales of alfalfa hay that represent production on the exhibitor's farm. We will be having the visual judging event with public attendance on Tuesday, August 24th starting at 8:30 a.m. until finished. The judge will be Steve Fransen from WSU Prosser. The resulting Alfalfa Hay King for 2004 will receive a traveling trophy and a cash award. Cash awards will be presented through 5th place while trophies will be provided through 4th place.

BIG BALE TIMOTHY FUMIGATION - CONFIRMED BY MAFF

The National Hay Association received official notification from Japanese MAFF officials that Big Bale Timothy has been certified for fumigation. Big Bale Timothy can now be imported into Japan with proper fumigation procedures being followed by USDA certified fumigation facilities.

ROUNDUP READY ALFALFA UPDATE – BY MARK McCASLIN, FORAGE GENETICS INTERNATIONAL

In 2004, for the third consecutive year, Roundup Ready™ alfalfa trials were established with numerous University collaborators to help establish best use practices for application of the technology for weed control in alfalfa. Many of these trials also allow a comparison of Roundup/Roundup Ready alfalfa with other current weed control options. Agronomic evaluation of the first generation Roundup Ready experimental varieties continues at over a dozen locations in the U.S.

Results from pollen flow studies with leafcutter bees have helped FGI establish isolation distances

required to meet internal seed quality standards for trait purity and adventitious presence. In late 2003 and early 2004 these seed production “best practices” were shared with various stakeholders in the alfalfa seed industry. FGI and the Idaho Crop Improvement Association are finalizing an agreement that allows the sharing of information required to enable other seed companies and seed growers to manage isolation to produce seed that meets their seed quality needs. This agreement should be a model that can also be used in other alfalfa producing states.

Application for de-regulation has been made with the USDA and FDA (food and feed use), and will be filed in Mexico later this year. Import approval of Roundup Ready alfalfa is being sought in Japan, Canada, Taiwan and South Korea. Regulatory approval in the U.S. and key hay export markets will be completed prior to commercialization of the technology. The most likely date for commercialization is late 2005.

Market your business with a “Banner Ad.” For just \$1.00 per day you can place a 468x60 pixel banner ad on: www.wa-hay.org

2005 Washington State Hay Growers Association Convention and Trade Show

Now is the time to book your space. This facility is ideal for the biggest tractor or the smallest booth and anything in between.

January 18-19, 2005 ❖ Three Rivers Convention Center, Kennewick, WA

New Location which features 22,000 square feet of COVERED trade show space.

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