PURDUE UNIVERSITY | Extension - Agriculture and Natural Resources

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Pulaski County AG Newsletter

Fall 2021

Crops Field Day

WHEN: September 2, 2021 8:00 - 11:30 AM (EST)

WHERE: Agronomy Center for Researcch & Education(ACRE) 4530 US-52 West Lafayette, IN 47906

Featuring PARP, CCH and CCA Credits

Topics include:

- **Carbon markets for row-crop producers**
- **Corn management update**
- **MiniBulk pesticide storage**
- **Live drone demonstrations**

REGISTER ONLINE AT:

http://bit.ly/2021CropsFieldDay

- Contact Jon Charlesworth with questions at 765-884-0140 or charles6@purdue.edu
- A light breakfast will be served at start of event.
- Masks are required for the indoor events.

Diagnostic Training

The Pinney Purdue Diagnostic Training will provide a "hands-on" approach for teaching the art and science of accurately diagnosing crop problems for Northwest Indiana. Together with a late summer training (September 8), the sessions should help those who work with field crops to fine-tune their season-long problem trouble-shooting skills and evaluate new and alternative management strategies. These sessions will provide pertinent information on interacting factors (nutrient, pest, and environmental stresses) that impact corn and soybean growth and development.

The training is on September 8th and starts at 9:00 am CDT at the Pinney Purdue Ag Center, 11402 S. County Line Road, Wanatah, IN. Purdue Extension Specialists and Educators will be presenting information on late season growth and development for corn and soybeans, crop diseases, and weed management,.

The training offers continuing education credits for Certified crop advisors, Commercial Pesticide Applicators, and private Applicators. The session will at 3:45 pm. Registration is $55 and includes Corn & Soybean Field Guide , lunch and other information. Register with check or credit card at https://cvent.me/xkAEVq

Want More Information? Check out our web site https://extension.purdue.edu/Pulaski for timely articles on current issues and upcoming events. Like us on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/Pulaskices for timely information on local events, webinars, and research from Purdue.

Take Time to Evaluate Yield, Quality, Resistance, Persistence When Selecting Forage

By Keith Johnson

Many times I get frustrated when I go to the grocery store. The task seems simple enough; purchase a can of beans. The problem for me as I stare up and down the bean shelf is there are too many darn bean choices. Some are no spice, low spice, medium spice, or hot spice. Some are white beans, red beans, black beans or brown beans. Beans are labeled by Company A through Company G. Some are higher price, moderate price or lower price. The beans are canned, in glass, or in a plastic bag. After complete evaluation, I make my decision on what bean type I am going to buy after too much valuable time has passed. Then, I need to move up the aisle and do the same thing with corn and carrots.

I hope you take more time evaluating what forage species and variety of that species should be purchased than the time taken to buy a vegetable at the grocery store. I perceive that way too often a person walks into a farm store and purchases an inferior forage variety because they don't start the evaluation process soon enough and the top varieties have already been sold, they are novices and don't realize that there are variety choices within a forage species, or the farm store employee is not fully informed on the differences among species and varieties.

I encourage you to get seed ordered now if you have perennial forages to seed in the next month. Do not wait until the week before seeding to start the process. I understand that the seed harvest in the Willamette Valley in Oregon where much cool-season grass seed production occurs has not had a stellar year with grass seed production. For those of you planning on seeding cover crops this fall and forages next spring, begin the species and seed selection process sooner than later.

What considerations should be made when selecting a forage variety?

Seed source – Select a seed company that has personnel that understands the product they have to sell and can give specific information about forage species and species within a variety.

Named variety – Select a named variety and not one with "Variety Not Stated" or "VNS" on the seed tag. The genetic attributes of unnamed varieties are not known.

Yield – See if yield data is available for performance comparisons among varieties. Put more trust in true yield differences among varieties when statistical analysis has been done and are part of the data tables.

Seed Quality – Be aware of germination and purity of the seed before it is purchased. Low germination, high hard seed count in legumes, and low purity seed are not desired. Note whether there are weed seed and other crop seed with the desired forage seed species. The following link provides useful information about reading seed tags. https://extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/AY/AY-375-W.pdf

Forage Quality – Less likely to be found than yield data, but consider selecting a sorghum-sudangrass or pearl millet with the brown midrib trait for improved digestibility. Less lignin alfalfa varieties are now available, too.

Resistance – Diseases that are problematic in your area should be considered when selecting varieties. Genetic resistance to diseases is an important step in reducing yield and forage quality losses, and improving persistence of the forage. Potato leafhopper resistant alfalfa varieties are available to lessen damage caused by this sap-sucking insect. Orchardgrass leaf diseases can be reduced by selecting varieties with high resistance.

Persistence – Perennial forage varieties that are economically sustainable through many seasons are preferred to short-lived ones.