

# THE FORAGER

*Agronomics with livestock in mind!*

## **AGRO-TIPS...**

There are a number of things to consider when purchasing seed products. Here are a couple of items of interest we thought you might appreciate knowing about:

### **SELECT AGAINST ALFALFA ROOT ROT DISEASE**

A recent study by Cornell University reveals that alfalfa brown root rot disease has spread to the Northeast. Since 1996, the disease has spread from western Canada to Wyoming, Idaho, Montana, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and now New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania and Maine. Experts say there is no way to deal with the disease once it invades a field. It is recommended that producers choose stronger, disease-resistant alfalfa varieties for future plantings. Be sure to check out the number of quality alfalfa varieties offered through Renaissance. Information on disease resistance is available for these varieties, which can help with selecting the best one for each geographic and climatic area, as well as other agronomic and nutritional factors.

(Dairy Herd Management – January 2008)



### **Managing your weed control strategy to avoid resistance development**

For many producers, controlling herbicide-resistant weeds is the most frustrating aspect of crop management. In many cases it requires them to change their farm operations. Sometimes these changes may represent definite improvements, while other times, they may just represent very costly bandaid treatments for problems that might have been avoided. Resistance takes only a few years to achieve, but many more to remediate. Preventing resistance is by far better than dealing with it each year.

Several weed species have developed resistant populations including shattercane, waterhemp, kochia, lambsquarters, and pigweed. Resistance implies that something occurred over time causing a population to become tolerant to a particular class of herbicides. Often the cause is repeated use of the same class of herbicide in the same field. These weed species, which may slowly develop resistance to a herbicide, will proliferate over time due to selection pressure. Resistance is not the same as tolerance. A species may be naturally tolerant to a specific herbicide from day one. Resistance is also a part of the biology of the herbicide. When choosing a weed management strategy for fields containing resistant weed species, focus on the resistant weeds. The object should be to prevent any one species from consistently going to seed. Understanding the resistance and mode of action of the herbicides being used will be helpful. Rotating the modes of action of various herbicides is a good strategy for any field, helping to limit the development of herbicide-resistant weeds.

To select the right herbicide for weed control needs, it's important to understand about the herbicide's active ingredient and mode of action to avoid contributing to a resistance development. Keep good records to make it easier to rotate mode of action each year. Resistance takes only a few years to achieve, but many more to remediate. Preventing resistance is by far better than dealing with it each year.

### **EARLY ORDER DISCOUNTS FOR SEED**

**March 15, 2008 ~ 2.0%**

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