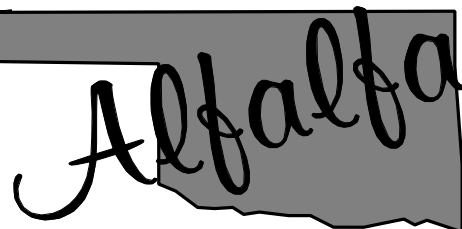


OKLAHOMA ALFALFA

HAY & SEED ASSOCIATION



368 AG Hall

OSU Agronomy Department

Stillwater, OK 74078

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The NEWS from the Oklahoma Alfalfa Hay & Seed Association can be found on the World Wide Web at the following address:
<http://clay.agr.okstate.edu/okalfhs/welcome.htm>

It is currently linked to the OSU Agronomy Department's Home Page. Several month's previous issues of the NEWS and descriptions of the Association are present and are being updated.

We welcome contributions and suggestions. Comments about and contributions to the NEWS are welcome and can be submitted to any of the directors (see page 6).

NEWS

Volume 20 No. 5

May 1996

HAY SUPPLIERS NEEDED!!!

We are getting calls almost daily from cattlemen wanting to buy hay, but we know of very few producers with hay for sale. If you know of anyone who has any kind of hay for sale, give us a call at 405-744-6410. Leave a simple message.

- Name
- Phone number
- What kind of hay
- Quality test results, if available.

This number is available 24 hours a day for messages. During working hours it will usually be answered by a secretary in the OSU Agronomy Department .

Problem times are upon us again. Last year at this time most of us were trying to cut hay but could not get into flooded fields. All we could do was watch the weather forecasts and see more rain coming our way. This year it is the opposite. We have had dry weather, but most of us have not produced enough to bother getting out the swather.

We will make a list to give to those calling for hay. We will provide this service as long as the drought lasts but will erase names after 2 weeks. So, if you have hay for sale, PLEASE call and maybe we can help. When leaving a message, please talk slowly so we can get the information correct. It would be good to repeat the phone number.

If you want to buy hay, call (405-744-6410) to see if we have any contacts. Please call for the hay suppliers list between 8 am and 5 pm so we can give you the information then.

Neither the Oklahoma Alfalfa Hay and Seed Association nor Oklahoma State University will be involved in negotiating the price or assuring descriptions are accurate. This program is not designed to replace HAYMARKET which lists hay graded by a third party from September to February.

Please let us know if you have sold out of hay so we can remove your name.

-- John Caddel
 Forage Extension Agronomist

ALFALFA "WEED-IT" TIPS

Spring Planted Alfalfa

If you planted alfalfa this spring, it is important that you control summer weeds. Summer weeds should be up by now and should be sprayed in the next week or so. Summer weeds are very competitive with spring planted alfalfa and stand failures can result if weeds are not controlled. Postemergence herbicide options include:

- 1) **PURSUIT** can be used on emerged alfalfa and gives good to excellent postemergence and residual broadleaf weed control. In addition, it can give some control of weedy summer grasses. Apply 4 oz/A of PURSUIT when alfalfa in 2nd trifoliolate leaf stage or larger and weeds are 1-3 inches. PURSUIT has good soil residual activity, so once it gets activated by rainfall, it will control most weeds all summer.
- 2) **BUTYRAC 200** (2,4-DB) is good for control of most seedling broadleaf weeds. Apply 2 pt/A of BUTYRAC to seedling alfalfa after it has four leaves and weeds are about one inch tall. Weeds such as pigweeds metabolize 2,4-DB into 2,4-D and as a result are killed. Alfalfa does not do this, so it is tolerant to 2,4-DB. However, **do not use 2,4-D** as it will kill alfalfa.
- 3) **POST PLUS** is good for control of small emerged annual grass seedling. It is important to mix 1 qt/A of Crop Oil Concentrate with Post Plus.

POST PLUS and BUTYRAC 200 are often mixed together as a spray mixture when both broadleaf weeds and weedy grasses are a problem. It is important to use a low rate of BUTYRAC 200 (no more than 2 pt/A) in the mixture since the crop oil appears to decrease the selectivity of 2,4-DB on alfalfa.

Warm-Season Weeds In Established Alfalfa

If you currently have a good alfalfa stand (more than 30 stems/sq. ft.), then you may not have summer weed problems this year. Your alfalfa will essential shade out and out-compete the emerged annual weeds and none will result in the hay. However, if your stand is getting thin, or you are not keeping it fertilized properly, then

expect summer weeds to start showing up in the third harvest. Summer weed control options are:

1. **Do no weed control.** This may be the most profitable option, especially this year. The first and second cuttings will not have any summer weeds in them because the weeds are still small. Then, if it stays dry in July, there will not be that much growth of the annual weeds the rest of the summer. If weeds do grow, they can be utilized. A mixture of alfalfa-grass is an excellent hay for beef cattle. Also, producers should consider grazing weedy alfalfa. Weeds in alfalfa minimize bloat problems, and good gains can be obtained by grazing (see Alfalfa Harvest Management Circular E-943).
2. **Use Herbicide options:**

PURSUIT is most active on broadleaf weeds. At 4 oz/A, small pigweeds and some other broadleaf weeds are listed as being controlled. However, it may only suppress some of the grasses at this rate. In our trials, we have had excellent season-long control of pigweeds with 4 oz/A applied after first harvest. However, grass control has been erratic. Pursuit has both postemergence and residual activity, so you can expect summer-long weed control of susceptible weeds with an after first harvest application. Be aware of rotational crop guidelines after using PURSUIT. It is 4 months for wheat and 18 months for sorghum (see label for other crops).

SINBAR gives fair to good control of pigweeds when applied after first harvest. However, grass control has only been fair. SINBAR should be applied at 0.7 to 0.9 pounds of product/A as soon as the hay is off of the field. A 1-inch rainfall is required to move the herbicide into the soil so it can be taken up by the roots of the weeds.

("Weed-It" Tips continued on facing page)

GRAMOXONE EXTRA is a contact nonresidual herbicide that can be used to control emerged weeds between harvest. Most alfalfa will be browned-off with application, so it has to be applied within 5 days of cutting to minimize damage. Small emerged pigweeds are killed, but poor control of emerged grasses and the emergence of new weeds after spraying can be a problem. Best use for Gramoxone Extra has been for dodder control after second cutting.

BUTYRAC 200 (2,4-DB) is a nonresidual herbicide that can give good control of small pigweeds. Control of other summer broadleaf weeds is only fair, so read the label for listing of susceptible broadleaf weeds.

POAST PLUS is a nonresidual herbicide that can give good control of most emerged summer grasses. It is essential that 1 quart of crop oil concentrate/acre be added to the spray mix. It is important to use the rate listed on the label for the various grass.

Both BUTYRAC 200 and POAST PLUS are translocated herbicides, so weeds need to be actively growing (good soil moisture and temperature) when applied. Applications should be made between cuttings when the alfalfa regrowth is about 3 inches tall and there are enough emerged weeds to merit control (1 to 2/sq. ft.). The first application for both herbicides is normally made after the second cutting in mid-June, but probably needs to be applied after 1st-harvest this year since harvest has been delayed to insect and weather problems. Since neither of these herbicides has residual, it will be necessary to scout the field for new emerged weeds and respray in each cutting if season-long weed control is desired.

If dry weather conditions continues, then weeds in rain-fed alfalfa may not be a big problem this summer. Weeds that do emerge will not be able to compete with the alfalfa for the limited moisture.

-- Jim Stritzke
Alfalfa Weed Specialist

DROUGHT RESISTANT ALFALFA VARIETIES

Many alfalfa producers ask “What variety resists drought?” or “What variety will do the best without much rain?” The answer is always the same. The best alfalfa variety for good conditions (rain or irrigated) is the best under droughty conditions.

Alfalfa is one of the most drought resistant crops. It has a vast root system which can get to moist soil, if it is there. When it does not find water, alfalfa goes dormant -- rather than trying to grow without enough water. Alfalfa can live during prolonged droughts. When rains return, it will start growing again.

This is not to say that alfalfa can produce high yields without large quantities of water. Alfalfa uses large amounts of water to produce high yields. It requires about 6" of water available to the root system to produce a ton per acre.

Data summarized on the following page compare alfalfa yields at first harvest from several of our regular trials to yields in previous first-cuttings and yearly totals. The tables include yield and rank among the varieties shown for three tests at Stillwater, two tests at Perkins, and three tests at Chickasha. No irrigation was applied before first harvest this year.

First harvest yields this year are much lower than normal (as expected). The column headings tell which year the test was sown; the year the data were collected, and which harvests are

included. For example, 95-96-1 in each table indicates the test was sown in 1995, harvested in 1996, and only first cutting is shown. 93-95-Tot (in the top and bottom tables) says tests were sown in 1993, harvested in 1995 and the total yield for the year is presented.

The most striking information is that the “good” varieties (as evaluated over many years) tend to have the highest yield during first cutting this year. As usual, there are some exceptions where a mediocre variety performed well this year's first cutting.

When choosing an alfalfa variety, pick the one that is best over the long haul, not just for one cutting. Stick with the best varieties for dry or wet years.

Another thing these data show is the numerically highest yield may not really be better than some others in the test. The “1sd” (least significant difference) indicates how large the difference between two varieties must be before we are confident there is really a difference.

-- John Caddel
Forage Extension Agronomist

Stillwater Alfalfa Yield Tests

Variety	95-96-1		94-96-1		94-95-1		94-95-Tot		93-96-1		93-95-1		93-95-Tot		93-2yr. Tot	
	ton/Ac	rank	ton/Ac	rank	ton/Ac	rank	ton/Ac	rank	ton/Ac	rank	ton/Ac	rank	ton/Ac	rank	ton/Ac	rank
OK08	1.0	4	0.4	6	2.0	7	5.5	7	0.2	10	1.6	10	4.3	10	13.2	10
WL 322 HQ									0.7	9	1.7	9	6.5	9	14.8	9
Magnum IV	1.3	1	1.2	3	2.4	5	8.4	2	0.9	3	1.9	8	7.1	5	16.5	5
Buffalo									0.9	5	1.9	7	7.3	8	15.6	8
OK 49	1.2	3	1.2	2	2.5	3	8.0	4	0.8	7	2.0	6	7.4	4	16.6	4
ICI 645	0.8	6							0.8	6	2.1	5	7.3	6	16.1	6
ICI 630	0.9	5	1.0	4	2.4	6	7.4	5	1.0	2	2.2	4	7.6	2	17.1	2
Cimarron VR	1.3	2	0.9	5	2.5	4	7.4	6	0.7	8	2.3	3	7.1	7	16.0	7
WL 323			1.4	1	2.7	1	8.2	3	0.9	4	2.4	2	7.8	1	17.1	1
DK 133					2.6	2	8.8	1	1.1	1	2.4	1	7.9	3	16.7	3

Isd (0.05)	0.2	\\	0.3	\\	0.2	\\	0.8	\\	0.2	\\	0.3	\\	1.2	\\	1.3	\\
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Notes: ?? means not significantly different from highest yield in the test.
 Column headings: year sown - harvest year - first cutting or total
 Blank cells: Variety was not included in the trial.

Perkins Alfalfa Yield Tests

Variety	95-96-1		94-96-1		94-95-1		94-95-Tot	
	ton/Ac	rank	ton/Ac	rank	ton/Ac	rank	ton/Ac	rank
OK08	0.7	1	0.7	1	2.3	8	7.3	8
5472			0.5	4,5	2.6	3	7.3	7
WL 323			0.4	6	2.7	1	7.3	6
OK 49	0.6	3	0.6	2	2.6	4	7.5	5
Cimarron VR	0.7	2	0.5	4,5	2.7	2	7.6	4
ICI 645			0.4	7	2.5	6	7.6	3
ICI 630	0.5	4	0.4	8	2.6	5	7.6	2
5454			0.6	3	2.4	7	7.8	1

Isd (0.05)	0.1	\\	0.1	\\	0.2	\\	0.5	\\
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Notes: ?? means not significantly different from highest yield
 Column headings: year sown - harvest year - first cutting or total
 Blank cells: Variety was not included in the trial.

Chickasha Alfalfa Yield Tests

Variety	95-96-1		94-96-1		94-95-1		94-95-Tot		93-96-1		93-95-1		93-95-Tot		93-2yr. Tot	
	ton/Ac	rank	ton/Ac	rank	ton/Ac	rank	ton/Ac	rank	ton/Ac	rank	ton/Ac	rank	ton/Ac	rank	ton/Ac	rank
OK08	0.8	9	1.6	5	2.1	11	7.7	11	1.3	12	2.2	9	7.1	12	15.1	12
Buffalo	0.9	6							1.8	1	2.0	12	9.1	9	16.1	11
Archer			1.5	8	2.4	9	8.6	3	1.5	8	2.2	10	9.0	10	16.2	10
WL 323	1.1	1	1.5	10	2.5	3	8.5	6	1.4	11	2.1	11	9.1	8	17.1	9
Magnum IV	1.0	2	1.6	3	2.5	4	8.6	2	1.7	3	2.4	6	9.7	6	17.4	8
ICI 645	1.0	4							1.6	7	2.4	4	9.9	4	17.7	7
Dominator			1.5	9	2.3	10	8.3	9	1.7	5	2.3	8	9.7	5	17.8	6
Cimarron VR	0.9	5	1.4	11	2.5	1	8.3	8	1.5	9	2.5	1	9.5	7	18.2	5
ICI 630	1.0	3	1.5	7	2.4	8	8.5	4	1.7	4	2.3	7	10.3	3	18.9	4
Jewel									1.5	10	2.4	5	10.5	2	19.0	3
OK 49	0.9	8	1.6	2	2.5	2	8.7	1	1.6	6	2.4	3	8.5	11	19.1	2
DK 133	0.9	7	1.6	4	2.4	5	8.5	5	1.7	2	2.4	2	10.6	1	19.1	1
5454			1.6	6	2.4	6	8.2	10								
5472			1.7	1	2.4	7	8.4	7								

Isd (0.05)	0.2	\\	0.1	\\	0.2	\\	0.7	\\	0.2	\\	0.2	\\	1.1	\\	2.0	\\
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Notes: ?? means not significantly different from highest yield in the test.
 Column headings: year sown - harvest year - first cutting or total.
 Blank cells: Variety was not included in the trial.

**CALL FOR PROPOSALS
FROM
OKLAHOMA ALFALFA RESEARCH FUND**

The Board of Directors for the Oklahoma Alfalfa Hay & Seed Association have determined that \$5875 will be available for Research and/or Extension Grant support in 1996.

Grant(s) will be awarded to help finance the purchase of equipment, supplies, labor, and travel necessary to conduct applied research and/or extension activities devoted to the improvement of Oklahoma Alfalfa Industry. Preference will be given to active members of the Association. Proposals should not exceed 2 pages in length and should include the following items:

1. Title
2. Name and Address of Project Leader(s)
3. Introduction to the Problem(s)
4. Objectives
5. Approach and Procedures
6. Budget Summary

Individuals or groups interested in applying should send 10 copies of their proposal to John Caddel, Secretary, by June 10, 1996. Proposals will be evaluated by the Board of Directors, and funds will be awarded to successful projects on July 9, 1996 at their Board of Directors Meeting.

Funds to support alfalfa research and extension activities come from the members. All contributions are completely voluntary. Most of the money for grants (\$5000) this year comes from the general operating funds of the Association. The rest comes as interest on the Association's Research Fund Endowment.

The auctions held during the Annual Meeting in February generated more than \$15,000 which was deposited in the Research Fund. This year's deposit doubled the total in the Research Fund. As the fund was originally set up, the Association only uses interest earned from the endowed money, never touching the principal.

For information about contributing to the Alfalfa Research Fund contact John Caddel, Secretary for the Association. Contributors to the Alfalfa Research Fund can send checks to the Oklahoma Alfalfa Hay & Seed Association, indicating that the money should be deposited in the Research Fund.

If you have comments about procedures related to the use of the Research Fund, contact any of the Association Directors, listed on the last page of the NEWS.

PAY YOUR ASSOCIATION DUES

Nearly everyone who was a member of the Association last year has paid their dues for 1996. If we have received your dues, there will be a "1996" on your address label, Thanks. If you think you paid your 1996 dues but there is a "1995" on the label, call. Invite a neighbor to join!!

MEETINGS IN OKLAHOMA

IF YOU ARE PLANNING AN ALFALFA MEETING,
CALL AND GIVE US THE DETAILS.
WE WOULD LIKE TO INCLUDE IT IN THE LIST.

- June 4** Forage Tour, Agronomy Research Station (at US 177 & State HiWay 33) near Perkins. Alfalfa variety tests for forage yield and grazing persistence will be on the program among other forage stops. Tour begins at 8AM and continues until 3PM with complimentary breaks and lunch.
- June 16-20** North American Alfalfa Improvement Conference in Oklahoma City. If you are interested in attending, call John Caddel for registration form and details -- 405-744-9643.
- July 9** Alfalfa Hay Congress '96. Machinery Displays & Demonstrations, Educational Program, Tours of Demo. Plots and More. Alfalfa County Fairgrounds. Contact Northwest Okla. County Agents for details.
- August 15** Eastern Research Station Tour, near Haskell. Wide variety of forage and row crop topics. Details will follow in the NEWS.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 1996

Steve Standridge, President Rt. 3, Box 211, Chickasha 73018 405-224-0405 Southwest Representative	Bill Harshman Rt. 1, Box 125, Coyle 73027 405-377-2837 Northeast Representative	Byron Yeoman Rt. 1, Box 103, Dover 73734 405-853-2749 At Large Representative
Jackson McLane, Vice-Pres. Rt. 1, Box 147, Anadarko 73005 405-453-7800 At Large Representative	Trey Lam Rt. 1, Box 74, Pauls Valley 73075 405-238-2836 Southeast Representative	Keith Varner 621 N. 17th St., Frederick 73542 405-335-5954 At Large Representative
Chris Buck Rt. 2, Box 50A, Cherokee 73728 405-596-3141 Northwest Representative	Matt Gard Rt. 1, Box 16, Fairview 73737 405-438-2320 At Large Representative	Mike Kubicek 6201 Econtuchka Rd., Shawnee 74801. 405-275-5994 At Large Representative

John Caddel, Sec/Treas., 478 AG Hall/OSU, Stillwater 74078 405-744-9643

To join or renew your membership in the OKLAHOMA ALFALFA HAY AND SEED ASSOCIATION --Fill out the form below and send it along with your dues to: Oklahoma Alfalfa Hay & Seed Assoc., 368 Agricultural Hall, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK 74078-6028. "1996" on the first line of the address label indicates your dues were current, as of that mailing.

Name	Type of Membership
Company (If commercial member)	Individual Member \$ 25/yr Commercial Member \$100/yr Life Member (Individual) \$200
Address	
City, State, & Zip	
County	How Long Have You Been an Association Member? <input style="width: 50px; height: 20px; border: 1px solid black;" type="text"/>
Phone (___) ___ - ____	<i>Please Estimate Number of Years.</i>