

## UPDATE: Winter Cover Cropping Update

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture has decided to extend the winter cover cropping application deadline from August 1, 2011 to **October 15, 2011**. Farms interested in signing up for winter cover cropping will be eligible for up to \$30/acre until October 15. Applications received after October 15 will be eligible for up to \$15/acre if funding is available. Please note that funding is not guaranteed and is available on a first come first served basis. All fields must be seeded at a minimum of 100#/acre by October 15, 2011 to be eligible. A *Cover Cropping Application* is available at our website.

An additional \$6/acre is available if farms would like to incorporate the cover cropping seed (e.g. drill seed, light disc, aeration tillage). A *Crops and Tillage Application* (available at our website) will also need to be filled out to be eligible for the additional grant incentive. Please indicate on the application how you will be incorporating the seed.

The annual program maximum for each farm is \$5,000 per fiscal year (July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012). For information about the FAP program and for program applications, please visit our website at <http://www.vermontagriculture.com/ARMEs/awq/FAP.html>.

Contact a Certified Crop Adviser at Bourdeaus' and Bushey, Inc if you need assistance with either of these applications.

## Upcoming Events

**World Dairy Expo – October 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011 Madison, WI.**  
[www.world-dairy-expo.com](http://www.world-dairy-expo.com)

### 73rd Annual Cornell Nutrition Conference for Feed Manufacturers October 18-20, 2011 Doubletree Hotel Syracuse East Syracuse, New York

The annual Cornell Nutrition Conference is designed to provide industry leading research and information to feed industry professionals and nutritional consultants.

Registration After October 1<sup>st</sup> - \$175.00  
Contact- Heather Darrow – 607-255-4478  
or [dmconf@cornell.edu](mailto:dmconf@cornell.edu) for more information.

### Alltech's Global 500 2011 Dec-6, 2011 to Dec-8, 2011 Lexington, Kentucky, USA

The world's most progressive dairy farmers and beef producers come together to network and discuss the most relevant and challenging topics in their industries. Contact your Alltech Representative about registration.



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# Write to the Point



Bourdeaus' and Bushey Newsletter

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## Mycotoxins...Where to Start?

Weather conditions and flooding in the Northeast this fall has increased the concern for more feed to be contaminated with mycotoxins. Mycotoxins are troublesome for animal health and contamination of milk.

But, where do you start when you are concerned about mycotoxin contamination in your feed? The molds that cause mycotoxins in feed are present naturally in the field and production of mycotoxins increases when a crop is stressed. So, the first place to start is by surveying fields that have been stressed by too much or too little water for mold growth on the ears. If mold is found then there are a few choices to think about.

**First** – Do you want to harvest, store, and feed this field? Is it possible to skip part of the field with the highest mold growth?

**Second** – If you do harvest how and where are you going to store the feed? Storing suspicious feed separately will make testing results more useful and managing how to use it when feeding time comes easier.

**Third** – Consult your nutritionist or crop specialist about what inoculant to use to provide good fermentation.

## After Harvest Considerations –

Testing silages, that where mold growth was present for mycotoxin contamination, is necessary to determine if and how to feed it. Feeding forages with high concentrations of mycotoxins can result in reduced milk production, poor fertility, increased somatic cell count, increased disease susceptibility, and reduced longevity of cows.

Some molds can be identified visually in silage.

**Penicillium** – Green-blue color, produces Ochratoxin – is rapidly degraded in a properly functioning rumen, but if not can result in damage to kidneys.

**Aspergillus** – Yellow-Green color, Aflatoxin and Ochratoxin – aflatoxin can be transferred to milk and is regulated by FDA, but is not likely to occur in our cooler climate.

**Fusarium** – Pink-white color, Zearalenone (reproductive problems), DON and T-2 (mostly broken down in rumen is pH is not low), Fumonisin (liver and kidney damage).

When you know what you have you can consult with your nutritionist about the use of a feed additive to mitigate the effects of mycotoxins on your animals.

## Have More Feed This Year

Weather conditions this year have resulted in projected feed supplies on many farms. This makes minimizing your dry matter loss especially important this year.

There are many parts of the ensiling process that can influence the amount of dry matter loss you will experience. Harvesting at the correct dry matter, selecting the correct silage inoculants for your setting, and packing the silo correctly are a few of the areas that you can control in making good silage. A final step that can further reduce the amount of dry matter loss is adding an oxygen barrier film like Silostop® that can further decrease the dry matter loss in the top 3 feet of your bunk. Research has shown that with no cover 50% of the silage in the top 3 feet will be waste; this can be reduced to 20% with regular covering with plastic, and down to less than 10% with the addition of Silostop®.

Silostop® is available from Bourdeaus' and Bushey, Inc at the Middlebury Store.



## Silage Inoculants to Improve Forage Stability

Applying silage inoculants at forage harvest can help to reduce dry matter losses from reduced fermentation activity, improve bunklife by reducing heating, and improved forage quality. We carry a wide range of inoculants from Pioneer, Seedway, and Alltech.

Pioneer has inoculants for Corn Silage, Alfalfa Silage, Grass and Cereal Silage, and High-Moisture Corn. Pioneer's 1174 inoculant helps speed up fermentation to increase dry matter recovery. 11C33 adds protection to stabilize silage at feed out. Inoculants like 11CFT and 11GFT provide improved fermentation, stability at feed out and improved fiber digestibility during the ensiling process.

Pioneer also offers a line of inoculant application equipment that can be fit by Bourdeaus' and Bushey, Inc staff to fit any brand of chopper.



## What is in the Dairy Security Act of 2011?

On September 23<sup>rd</sup> the "Dairy Security Act 2011" (HR 3062) was referred to the House Committee on Agriculture. This is a bill "to establish a program for dairy producers under which producers can offset reductions in producer income when the margin between milk prices and feed costs is less than a specified amount, to establish a dairy market stabilization program for producers participating in the margin protection program, to provide for the amendment of Federal milk marketing orders, and for other purposes."

The 3 parts to this bill are:

**Dairy Producer Margin Protection Program (DPMPP)** – The "insurance" part of the bill. Under the DPMPP, a producer could choose to enroll in a direct-payment program run by the USDA. **The basic program** (which would come at no cost) would provide cash payments directly to dairy farmers when the national "margin" between milk prices and feed costs dropped below \$4.00 per hundredweight. In other words, when the average milk price across the country drops to less than \$4.00 per hundredweight over the "feed cost calculation" (a formula that incorporates national values of corn, soybean meal and alfalfa), a payment would be made to all dairymen enrolled in the program. A **supplemental program** would be available for dairies that wish to generate payments from the program at higher margin levels. This additional coverage would include an annual premium paid by the dairy farmer.

**Dairy Market Stabilization Program (DMSP)** – This is commonly referred to as the "market management" part of the bill. One of the key changes in the latest version of the *Dairy Security Act* is that **the DMSP would only apply to dairies that choose to enroll in the insurance program outlined above (the DPMPP)**. Under the DMSP, when the margin falls below \$6.00 per hundredweight for two consecutive months, USDA would notify the dairies enrolled in the DMSP that in the following month, they would only be paid for 98% of their "base production" (which can be determined by either the dairy's production three months leading up to that point, or the production in the same month the prior year).

**Federal Milk Marketing Order (FMMO) Reform** – Unlike the previous "draft" version of this legislation, the *Dairy Security Act* does not directly make changes to the structure of FMMOs. Instead, the bill instructs USDA to consider changes to FMMOs through their hearing process.

You can follow the progress of this bill at:

[http://www.senate.gov/pagelayout/legislative/g\\_three\\_sections\\_with\\_teasers/legislative\\_home.htm](http://www.senate.gov/pagelayout/legislative/g_three_sections_with_teasers/legislative_home.htm)