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## **INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

# Issues with Nematodes in your High Tunnels?



Now through December 15, 2019 customers that purchase 10 gallons or more of Majestene will receive a **rebate of \$20/gallon**!\*

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Details: 10 gallon minimum purchase for customers in OH, PA, NY, and NJ. All other states require a 40 gallon minimum purchase. Purchase(s) must be completed etween December 15, 2018 - December 15, 2019. Can be made in multiple purchases. Sample payment: 10 gallons = \$200 rebate. Submit Rebate Claim Form along with copies of invoices as proof of purchase via mail or email to Marrone no later than December 15, 2019. Marrone will issue payment for rebate by March 31, 2020.

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**Our Mission** 

Your trusted partner; creating superior products for healthier soil, plants and animals. Healing the earth and feeding the world - Better Naturally!

# Fall Cover Cropping Options by Orin Moyer

It might seem like we are just getting into the main part of summer, but fall will be here soon, and you will want to have a cover crop plan in place ahead of time.

Some key components to consider when choosing a cover crop:

• What is your intended goal? (To add biomass, fix nitrogen, weed suppression, winter cover, etc.)

• Timing. (When is the earliest that you can plant the cover crop and when is the latest that you can terminate the cover crop?)

• Cost. (How much are you able to spend per acre in cover crop seed?)

To meet your intended goal for planting cover crops, you should consider the following:

• Attract beneficial insects: buckwheat, sweet clover, red clover, and crimson clover

• Tolerate wet soils: sweet clover, red clover, annual ryegrass, cereal rye, wheat, and oats

• Tolerate heat and drought: cowpea, hairy vetch, sweet clover, Sorghum Sudan grass, buckwheat, barley, and teff

• Cold tolerant: Cereal rye, wheat, spelt, triticale, winter pea, and sweet clover

• Quick forage or can be grazed: oats, forage radishes/turnips, rye, ryegrass, teff for dry fields, Sorghum Sudan grass, and barley

• Cover crops for organic matter (high C:N): Sorghum Sudan grass, rye, ryegrass, triticale, oats, wheat, spelt, and barley

• Cover crops for nitrogen (low C:N): cowpea, winter pea, red clover, sweet clover, hairy vetch, and alfalfa

• Reduce compaction (deep rooted): Sorghum Sudan grass, ryegrass-5-6', tillage radish-3-30', sweet clover-deep taproot, cereal rye and oats-30"

Timing is also a key consideration for success with cover crops. Getting cover crops seeded as early as possible in the fall and allowing them to grow as long as desired in the spring is a must. Planting a cover crop 30 days late and expecting it to reach its full potential is not possible.

#### Table 1. Biomass Production and Nitrogen Contribution of Selected Cover Crops

Cover Crops Dry biomass (ton/ac) Nitrogen (%) Carbon (%) CN ratio

Biomass N (lbs./ac)

Legumes						
Alfalfa	4.8	3.72	41.9	11.3	400	
Cowpea	3.2	1.97	42.6	21.6	141	
Crimson clover	0.8	1.97	41.7	21.2	63	
Hairy vetch	1.0	2.33	44.3	19.0	73	
Jumbo Ladino clover	0.7	3.26	42.8	13.1	55	
Medium red clover	0.9	2.77	43.7	15.8	53	
Mammoth red clover	0.8	2.00	43.5	21.7	35	
Mungbean	2.9	3.92	40.4	10.7	224	
White clover	0.3	2.92	43.3	14.8	24	
Winter pea	3.1	2.60	44.1	17.0	181	
Non-legumes						
Coriander	0.5	1.52	41.4	27.3	18*	
Cereal rye	1.4	0.89	42.6	48.1	26*	
Annual ryegrass	1.3	2.11	43.2	20.5	62*	
Oilseed radish	3.9	2.11	41.1	19.5	184*	
Spelt	2.1	0.99	42.7	43.3	45*	
Sorghum Sudan grass	12.2	0.68	43.3	63.3	185*	
		* indicates nitrogen recycling				

Table 1, lists common cover crops and the bio mass and nitrogen each of the crops has the potential to produce.

As a general rule in order to achieve the results you want you will typically have to mix several different species of crops together. Often times mixing legume type crops with a cereal grain will increase biomass and reduce seeding cost. Some examples may include:

- Tillage Radishes Oats Rye
- Winter Wheat Crimson Clover
- Red Clover –Oats

There are endless possibilities with multiple species for cover crop mixes. Try to give yourself an early planting window, planning ahead to determine the cover crops you will use so that you can purchase the seeds needed.

Although cost can be a determining factor and everyone has a budget they must live within, cost should NOT be the number one factor in deciding which cover crops you plant. Investing in cover crops is a direct investment in the production of your intended crop for the following spring. Planning now for your cover crop planting will help you achieve the goals you have set for your cash crops' fertility and production.

As always Fertrell is available to provide support for your growing needs. Contact your Fertrell dealer or salesperson with questions about which kinds of cover crops would work best in your growing situation and with your production plan.





#### Faverolles Chickens by Matt Hemmer

#### Faverolles: Winter Eggs and Gourmet Meat.

The Faverolles chicken breed takes its name from the village of Faverolles, in the Eure-et-Loire region just southwest of Paris, France. They breed was initially developed by crossing many other breeds and then selecting, based solely upon production qualities. They are a dual-purpose, composite breed thought to be made up of Houdan, Brahma, Dorking, Malines, and others. By about 1866 a distinct type emerged and a consistent plumage pattern established. Faverolles first arrived in the US around 1896. Faverolles are medium sized, with deep compact bodies, feathered shanks and toes. They also have muffs and beards resembling the Amerucauna's. They were admitted into the APA in 1914. Currently the APA recognizes Salmon and White Faverolles, although Black and Mahogany versions also exist.



#### Winter Eggs:

Faverolles are historically known as good winter layers. In my own experience; December, January and February are their most productive egg laying months. Faverolles are built for cold weather with their heavy feathering, muffs and modest combs. They are out foraging when other breeds are shivering in the coop. Conversely, they shut down production when summer temperatures get above 90 degrees. After working with mine for 5 generations, I am seeing consistent annual production numbers of 150 to 160 medium sized, cream or rose tinted eggs. However, the summers here in Kansas aren't the best fit for Faverolles. I suspect they would fare better in Northern climates with more moderate summer temperatures. I believe in a more suitable climate these birds would achieve annual egg production numbers above 180. Historic records show egg production approaching 220 eggs/year, but I believe today's birds haven't achieved that level yet.

#### **Gourmet Meat:**

The second economic attribute that contributed to Faverolles historic popularity was meat production. Faverolles were raised and fattened for the Paris meat trade. They were considered the premier gourmet meat bird of France at the turn of the century. Faverolles were raised on pasture for 12 weeks and then confined and finished on a ration of ground grains – likely oats and barley – softened in sour milk. (In some cases, mare's milk) This method of finishing produces a carcass that has more inter-muscle fat, akin to marbling in beef. Also, the fat is white, rather than yellow making it more visually appealing.

I have attempted to replicate this method (no mare's milk) in small groups of 25 birds, with promising results. The meat - particularly the breast meat - was fine textured, being extremely tender and flavorful. Lacking a great, local premium market I have chosen to finish most of my birds with a more standard ration. Even without the special diet, today's Faverolles should be expected to finish out in 16 to 18 weeks, yielding a compact, three pound carcass. They will not have the amount of breast meat that you see in a Cornish cross, but the flavor and texture will be far superior.

#### **Sunny Disposition:**

In addition to their economic qualities, Faverolles are one of the more calm, keeper friendly breeds available today. They are easy to manage, never flighty and quickly become attached to their keepers. However, because they tend to be relatively passive, they don't mix well with other breeds.

#### Sourcing:

As Faverolles are winter layers, the best time

to source them is early in the hatching season, when the birds are at their productive peak. At Smoky Buttes Ranch we have chicks available from early March through May. This hatching cycle gives the birds ample time to be at peak production the following winter.

My breeding objectives center around restoring heritage breeds to their original productive intent. The Faverolles (Salmon & Mahogany) on my farm have sufficiently developed in the five years I've worked with them, to show me they present a viable option for a pastured poultry venture.

Looking for a breed to fill a couple of unique niches in your operation? The Faverolles breed may be worth a look.

To learn more about Faverolles, go to: www. smokybuttesranch.com Smoky Buttes Ranch Lindsborg, KS,

#### Fall Seeding Forages by Orin Moyer

In just a few weeks it will be time to seed your fall forage plantings. Fertrell now has Blue River's Alfalfa and Red Clover seeds available. These are optimal for planting alone or when mixed with grasses in new plantings of forage fields.

These seeds grow best on a level, firm seedbed with a seeding depth of ¼ inch. It is always best to seed ahead of a rain, but if that is not possible it may be necessary to repack after seeding to ensure good seed-to-soil contact.

If you prefer to establish forage seedings in the spring, take advantage of Fertrell's Early Ordering. This enables you to order your Blue River Alfalfa or Red Clover seeds in September at discount pricing, it also ensures that the variety you want will be available. You can contact your Fertrell Sales Representative or Dealer for details or with questions about any of your Blue River seed needs.





#### **Seaweed Lowers Methane**

The below article is a shortened version of Judith Lewis Mernit's article. You can find a full copy of the article at https://e360.yale. edu/features/how-eating-seaweed-can-help-cows-to-belch-less-methane or Fertrell would be happy to mail a copy to those without an e-mail access.



12 Holstein cows participated in an experiment being conducted by Roque's animal science professor, Ermias Kebreab, into reducing methane emissions from livestock by supplementing their diets with a specific type of seaweed. Methane is a potent greenhouse gas, with roughly 30 times more short-term, heat-trapping power than carbon dioxide. In California alone, 1.8 million dairy cows, together with a smaller number of beef cattle, emit 11.5 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent every year — as much as 2.5 million cars. In the U.S., domestic livestock contribute 36 percent of the methane humans cause to be put into the atmosphere.

The enormity of those numbers, in part, motivated California lawmakers to pass a law to reduce methane emissions and other short-lived "climate pollutants" by 40 percent below 2013 levels by 2030. The California Air Resources Board subsequently ordered a majority of the reductions in the new law to come from the dairy industry. Other cuts will come from diverting organic waste from landfills and eliminating fugitive emissions associated with oil and gas operations.

The UC Davis study will contribute to a global store of knowledge on how to limit the methane produced by "enteric fermentation" — the digestive process in a ruminant's upper stomach chamber, or rumen, where microbes predigest fiber and starch, releasing gases when they belch and exhale. It's "one of a handful of options in various stages of development that seem to have the potential to reduce [enteric] methane by 30 percent or more," says Ryan McCarthy, science advisor to the Air Resources Board.

Kebreab's experiments with seaweed additives to cattle feed have now surpassed that 30-percent figure, with one type of seaweed slashing enteric methane by more than 50 percent. In the fight to slow climate change, such reductions are no small matter: In the United States alone, domestic livestock — including cattle, sheep, goats, and buffalo — contribute 36 percent of the methane humans cause to be



put into the atmosphere, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Feed additives have shown more promise. Three years ago, Alexander Hristov, a researcher at Penn State University, achieved a 30 percent reduction in enteric methane by salting ruminant feed with a substance called 3-nitrooxypropanol, or 3NOP (the substance is currently awaiting FDA approval). Kebreab believes seaweed might prove to be an even better solution. A native of Eritrea who came to the U.S. after working in the United Kingdom and Canada, the 45-year-old researcher has been working on the problem for 15 years. "It's taken up pretty much my whole career," he says. Farmers in ancient Greece and 18thcentury Iceland deliberately grazed their cows on beaches.

Four of the cows eat a mixture of alfalfa and hay, heavily spiked with the seaweed-molasses

mixture. Four more will eat the same feed, with less seaweed added in. The rest are the control group - they'll eat plain feed, without any additives at all. Roque spent nearly two weeks training the cows in how to access their own specific feeding berths, affixing each one with a transponder that allows the cow to open an electronic door to her individual trough. When they finish eating, they're enticed by the drop of a "cow cookie" to visit a compartment where an instrument, much like a breathalyzer, analyzes their emissions. "They hear it drop and come over," Roque says. "We try to get each of them there three times a day." Each cow wears a ring on its ear that transmits an identification code along with its breath analysis to a database. Roque and Kebreab can view the results on their computers and smartphones.

The results have exceeded everyone's expectations, including Kebreab's. His three-month study of Ginger and her cohort found that spiking cows' ordinary rations with one kind of marine macroalgae in particular, Asparagopsis, reduces enteric methane by 58 percent. More than other seaweeds, Asparagopsis contains compounds that inhibit the production of methane, or CH4, and interrupt the process by which carbon and hydrogen bind together.

"We did not expect these numbers in the doses we used," Kebreab says. Milk production held steady or increased. A panel of tasters detected no differences among the different cows' milk.

There's nothing novel about cows eating seaweed, notes Joan Salwen, an environmental science fellow at Stanford University who introduced UC Davis scientists to the seaweed solution, and formed a nonprofit, Elm Innovations, to help focus and fund research. "Cows eat what's available," she says. In California, they eat almond hulls; in Georgia, they eat cottonseeds. Documented evidence attests to farmers in ancient Greece and 18th-century Iceland deliberately grazing their cows on beaches.

It was, in fact, an ordinary farmer who hit upon the idea of supplementing cows' feed with



seaweed — not for the climate, but simply for his animals' overall health. On the shores of Prince Edward Island in Canada, Joe Dorgan observed that his beach-paddocked cows got pregnant faster and produced more milk than his inland pastured cows. When he retired from dairy farming in 2011, he launched a new business, North Atlantic Organics, to make "stormtoss shoreweed" from Prince Edward Island available to inland farmers who graze their cows during seasons of scanty forage. Because it appears to promote milk production, the seaweed cure might catch on in other dairy states.

In partnership with James Cook University and Meat and Livestock Australia, Kinley began screening different seaweeds for their impact on methane emissions from ruminant livestock. That process revealed Asparagopsis as the anti-methanogenic seaweed of choice. But Kinley is quick to warn that it does not grow in abundance all over the planet. If it breaks out as a global solution to enteric methane, it will need to be farmed.

Even though the California dairy industry at large fought hard against what farmers initially considered onerous regulation, at least some dairy farmers are tentatively enthusiastic about seaweed additives. "Methane is an indication of an inefficiency in the animal's digestion," says Jonathan Reinbold, sustainability program manager for Organic Valley, a cooperative of more than 1,800 dairy farmers, including 35 in California. "If you can increase the digestion efficiency of a cow by 5 percent you could remove 5 percent of the land you use for production for cows. It can go back to fallow or be used to grow other kinds of food."

And because it also appears to promote milk production, the seaweed cure might catch on in other dairy states without many climate regulations. The California Air Resources Board's McCarthy sees a future for seaweed boosting dairy production in developing countries. Reinbold imagines it spreading across his company's U.S. cooperative.

#### **Upcoming events:**

Fertrell staff will be attending the following events.

7/**18/2019** "A Day with Dr. Paul", The Fertrell Company 600 N 2nd Street, Bainbridge, PA 17502

7/**19/2019** - 7/**20/2019** - Family Farm Days, Roy L.D. Yoder Farm, 2291 SR 557, Baltic, OH 43804

7/**26/2019 -** 7/**27/2019** - Family Farm Days, Quarryville, PA

**8/13/2019 - 8/15/2019** - Ag Progress Days, State College, PA

**8/20/2019 - 8/21/2019** - Organic Valley NY Regional Ag School, PennYan, NY

**9/13/2019 - 9/15/2019** - Mother Earth News Fair, Seven Springs, PA

**11/14/2019 - 11/17/2019** - Soil and Nutrition Conference, South Bridge, MA

12/10/2019 - 12 /12/2019 - New England Vegetable and Fruit Conference, Manchester, NH



Fertrell visits Bramble Hollow Farm

#### **News from the front**

If you are currently receiving the newsletter in print form and would prefer an e-mail option, please contact us at info@fertrell.com with your name and e-mail address. Please put "e-news" in the subject line. ... Thank you. For our dealers, if you have not done so already, we want to encourage you to have your customers sign up for the newsletter as well.

#### **New dealers:**

MT - Robert and Angela Krebs, Canyon Creek Farms - Home of Canyon Creek Poultry and Krebs Farm Nigerian Dwarf Dairy Goats -(406) 369-1664 or (406) 363-0856 e-mail: canyoncreekfarms@gmail.com or heritageorganicsmt@gmail.com, Website: www.krebs.farm

TX - Shady Grove Ranch, 539 Shady Grove Road, Jefferson, TX 75657 (903) 806-2775 E-mail: mattcadman@gmail.com Website: www.shadygroveranch.com

CO - Rocky Mountain Organic Farm, 11660 Green Acres Lane, Black Forest CO 80908, (248) 910-7002, E-mail: rockymountainorganicfarms@gmail.com Website: www.rockymountainfarms.com

NY - **Re-location:** the PennYan NY warehouse is now located at 2655 Vanzandt Hollow Road Watkins Glen, NY 14891 Email ahead: Jim@ fertrell.com or Call ahead at (315) 719-2050



#### The Problem with Manure by Brandon Williamson

If you're a dairy farmer you've got it. Probably lots of it. Sometimes you may not even know what to do with it. However, if you are following organic farming practices, you can't beat it. It provides an abundance of Nitrogen, Phosphorus, and Potassium. A lot has been said and is known about the macronutrient side of manures. From a N-P-K stand point, the value of manure is well understood. However, the micronutrients are often overlooked. What can you expect to gain from your manure besides N-P-K? Do you have the levels needed for the crops you intend to grow? Are the micronutrients that are measured there in a plant available form? These are all important questions to ask when taking your farm's fertility program into account.

Here are the averages of secondary and micronutrients taken from dairy manure samples in Wisconsin over two year.

This study was done by the University of Wisconsin-Extension. As you can see, some of these micronutrients are barely there. Boron comes in at 0.05 lbs. for liquid and 0.03 lbs. for solid. Zinc was 0.18 lbs. liquid and 0.06 lbs. solid.

So, what is your limiting factor?

Available Calcium? Sulfur? Boron? Zinc? Do you have a healthy microbial population?

Without a manure sample, it may be hard to estimate. Even with one, you may be falling short on plant available forms of these nutrients. There are many variables that come into play when regarding how to credit the nutrients provided by manures.

To address most of the possible nutrient concerns not met by your manure supply we'd like to introduce: Fertrell No Bull **Fertrell No Bull** is a dry blended formulation designed to provide your field crops and forages with the remaining balance of essential nutrients not provided by quality manure. Along with a quick boost of available Nitrogen and a blend of beneficial soil-based microorganisms to give your crop a strong start to a healthy, productive season.

This is a low-cost option for farmers with ample amount of manure, who are looking to supplement secondary and micronutrients while stimulating the soil.

It is an excellent source of Sulfur, Calcium, Boron, and Zinc. These secondary and micronutrients are needed for season long plant growth. Suggested Application: 125 lbs/Acre for field crops or 50 lbs/Acre/Cutting in hay fields. Please call into the office and request someone in the agronomy department for further consultation.

# Lbs./1000 gallons and Lbs./ton



# NO BUI Dry Blend Fertilizer

A new low cost blend for farmers that have a lot of manure Excellent source of Sulfur, Calcium, Boron and Zinc

Suggested Application: 125 lbs. / Acre

A dry blended formulation designed to provide your field crops and forages with the remaining balance of essential nutrients not provided by quality manure. Along with a quick boost of available Nitrogen and a blend of beneficial soil-based microorganisms to give your crop a strong start to a healthy, productive season.



#### News from the field

We would like to re-share a letter received by one of our valued customers. Ella Garritt, Echo-Song Farm & Dairy, Cambridge Springs PA. We receive a lot of questions around goat health.

#### Dear Fertrell,

I wanted to write in regards to your product "Fertrell's Goat Nutri-balancer to let you know how happy I am with your fine product!

I raise purebred Nubian goats for show, milk and temperament. I remember when I started with my goats, a neighbor suggested I try Fertrell's nutri-balancer for goats. I did, and everything went well.

It wasn't until I reached the bottom of that bag that I was using, that I realized just how well things had been going. I was unable to get anymore "Fertrell Goat Nutri-balancer" for several months. During those months I tried a wide variety of other goat products for supplementation. None of them did what Fertrell did. During the period where I was unable to provide "Fertrell Goat Nutri-balancer to my herd they had decreased energy, decreased milk output, dull coats, thin walled feet and low conception rates. I tried just about every other product on the market, but regardless of reviews or price, it didn't impact my goats the way the "Fertrell Goat Nutri-balancer" did.

Upon getting more supplies of Fertrell and giving it to my goats, the changes in my herd occurred almost overnight! No more lay-about goats, they were all running and playing and butting heads. Milk output went up noticeable. Within weeks I saw bright, shiny coats and tough, hard hooves reappear. The does that had not conceived, became pregnant. The biggest change I saw was in my buck; on the other supplements he had shown little interest in breeding, he was more content to eat and chew his cud.

Two days after starting the Fertrell again, he became perky and very active, showing a renewed interest in the does. His coat is thicker and shinier and he is back to being his usual self; king of the herd. I cannot thank you enough for your wonderful product that has made such a difference for me and my goats. As far as I am concerned, there are no other goat supplements that even come close; Fertrell's Goat Nutri-balancer is in a class by itself. Sincerest Thanks, Ella Garritt

#### Manage Necrotic Enteritis By Don Brubaker

I have seen Necrotic Enteritis rear its ugly head as early as 7 days of age and as late as 21 days of age. The mortality will rise sharply and stop as fast as it started. I have seen mortality range from almost none to 45%. Signs to look for, depressed feed consumption and activity. Their feathers will ruffle up, their necks will disappear into their bodies and it will appear that they are cold. Their droppings will range from a very dark reddish black to a dropping that has a lot of blood in it. If you were to post a chicken you would find blood spots in the intestinal wall.



#### Treatments

- 1. Fertrell DFM (Direct-Fed Microbials)
  - Mix 1 lb. of feed grade DFM in a ton of feed.
  - Mix 10 gms of the water soluble DFM (enough for 1000 birds) in enough water so that it is consumed in 12 hrs.
- 2. Copper Sulfate\*
  - Mix 1 oz. of Copper sulfate per 5 gal of water.

• 4 oz. of copper sulfate per 4 gal of stock water and meter out at a rate of 1 oz. to a gal. \*Do not add to water for more than three days at

a time. Always follow up with some form of direct fed microbial.

#### 3. Raw Milk

• Use separate containers to offer the milk, like egg flats or pie tins.

• Make a mash with milk and enough feed to last 1 to 1 ½ hrs. per day for 7 days. (Use 1 pt. to a 1 qt. per 100 birds depending on the age of the birds)

• Use only enough raw milk so that it will be consumed in 1 hour to 1 ½ hrs. Once a day for 7 days. (1 pt. to 1 qt. depending on the age of the birds)

- 4. Yogurt (no fruit added and raw as can be)
  - Put yogurt on top of or mix in the feed at a rate of
    - ° 1 qt. per 200 birds 1-3 weeks of age

1 qt. to 100 chicks 4 wks. too market5. Burn Hazel (Stinging Nettle)

- Feed Burn Hazel fresh cut and young liberally to the birds.
- Steep in water to make a tea and give to birds.
- 6. Garlic
  - Mix one toe of crushed garlic in 5 gal of water, best if left to steep overnight. (Good for secondary infections)
- 7. Citric Acid

• Mix one pack of citric acid to 256 gallons of water.

8. Bedding

• At first sign of the disease you should change bedding immediately and keep top dressing the new bedding daily to cover up droppings.

9. Eggs

• First week 1 dozen hard boiled eggs per 100 chicks

• Second and third week 1 ½ dozen hard boiled eggs per 100 chicks. It's best if the eggs are from your farm.

\*My recommendations have not been evaluated by the FDA.



#### New Horizons by Sage Dennis

A new crop is on the horizon, something that some farmers have already decided to take the jump and begin venturing into a "new" but old frontier. I am talking to you about Hemp. In Pennsylvania, hemp was a staple cash crop. For over two centuries Lancaster county Pennsylvania was the premiere place to grow hemp. Where we are located, you may be aware was the epicenter of hemp production. In fact, Pennsylvania was founded by William Penn, he specifically intended to grow hemp. Even to this day, we can see our State's heritage and how intertwined hemp was imbedded in our history. There was a point in our history where growing this crop became disallowed and unfortunately some farmers were caught up in its wake. However, that was the past and today there is a resurgence in hemp growth and I wanted to take the time to answer some questions that you as a farmer may have.

What is industrial hemp and how is it different from Marijuana? It seems simple enough, but since there are legalities involved in the growth of this. There are significant differences. Industrial hemp is a versatile plant that has been used for thousands of years, as a source of fiber and food. Industrial hemp and marijuana are different varieties of the same species of plant, Cannabis sativa. Marijuana is cultivated because of its production of the psychoactive plant chemical delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC. Industrial hemp is cultivated for fiber, seed and other purposes, and federal and state law requires that the concentration of THC must be less than 0.3% in industrial hemp.

Why is Pennsylvania allowing industrial hemp to be grown now? Thanks to the 2018 Farm Bill. The legal status of hemp has been changed, and is no longer considered a controlled substance. Which means you can move your plants, products, and buy in seed form over state lines! However, every site that has hemp grown on it must be registered with the state or federal government and undergo inspection and testing. For those that are interested in this we suggest you contact the 2019 Industrial Hemp Program Permit Application from your local state government office.

Hemp is an incredibly versatile crop. It can be used for its fibrous stem products to make products such as papers, molded plastics, textiles, construction materials. Seed products for food for human consumption, culinary oil, body care products, fuel, etc.; and floral/foliar products (CBD extracts). There are going to be companies looking for growers in all of these industries and many more. Right now most of the product sourcing is coming from Canada. This will give farmers here, an opportunity to capitalize on growing a crop and keeping it within the country.



I hope this has given you some insight into what you need to be aware of if you are choosing to manage a hemp crop. One last thing. I want you to be aware of, here at Fertrell, we decided to get a jump on how we can assist you in trying to manage hemp. We have talked with farmers who are growing this crop and are putting together a program that we feel will be able to benefit any individual wanting to grow hemp! So please, if you are a farmer and wanted to get more of an understanding of what it might take for you to transition into growing hemp? Reach out to us and we will always be sure to provide you with the knowledge, service, and products you need to make sure that your venture into a new crop will flourish.

#### Keep on Waving by Seth J. Epler

It was a high of 47 degrees and very rainy yesterday. It was one of those spring days, in Pennsylvania, which felt much more like autumn. It was cold, wet, and all together dreary. And after a long day of running the road, I will admit I was ready for it to be over.

And after leaving a farm that afternoon, with an air of negativity about me, I passed a large group of school students on their way home. Each and every one of them waved to me.

This really brightened my day right up. It also, immediately reminded me to count my blessings. And it really made me think of how important a friendly wave can be. It also made me realize how lucky I am to work with a community of folks who still take the time for a wave.



I always try to remember that I never know what it going on in someone's mind. It is possible that someone is going through

some very tough times. And sometimes a friendly wave, as small and simple as it is, could go a long way in raising someone's spirits.

In this world we live in that seems to move faster and faster each year, I believe in the importance of all of us slowing down once in a while. A great example of this could be taking the time to wave to a stranger, just for the sake of it. It certainly is a privilege for me to work in communities which revolve around farming. Spring time tends be very busy for most people. And believe me, I spend a lot of time driving around the back-country farm roads of Lancaster, Pennsylvania. And even during the busiest of times, I get a wave from many different people. Therefore, I thought I would take just a little bit of my time to acknowledge the significance of that. So, let's all keep on waving! I know I will.



#### **Summer Featured Products**



#### Pyganic 1.4 & 5.0

Offered in two different strengths 1.4% and 5.0% which is the percent active ingredient Contact Killer – Pyganic is a pyrethrin based product. It can provide quick knockdown control of over 80 different insects. It is non-selective so it will also kill beneficial insects as well. Spray Timing – Pyganic is sensitive to UV light and high temperatures; so it is best to spray early morning or in the evening to achieve to best results.

Good Coverage- Because Pyganic is a contact killer good coverage and of the crop is necessary. Be sure to use adequate amounts of water to ensure that the insects come in contact with the solution.

Tank mix pH - While more important if using on a larger scale at lower rates Pyganic performs best when the final tank mix has a pH of 5.5-7.0 Effective on – Pyganic will kill over 80 different insects including: aphids, armyworm, katydids, leafhoppers, leafrollers, mites, thrips, ticks, whitflies, etc.

Remember that using a organic approved insecticide should not necessarily be your first choice. Good crop rotation, proper planning and a well balanced soil should come first. If these fail and insects still prove to be problematic then a product like Pyganic can be a tool that can be used. Always monitor fields and crops for insect damage and try to act before they are a huge problem. Contact Fertrell for more information regarding Pyganic.

Container sizes:

- 5.0 Concentration gallons and quarts
- 1.4 Concentration quarts





#### Fertrell Specialty Fertilizers: By Dean Painter

Berry Mix is a unique Fertrell product used in berry fertility programs. Berry Mix is effective when used on blueberries, strawberries, and all brambles including raspberries, blackberries and black caps. It is a blended plant food specially designed to grow more, bigger, and tastier berries. It has an analysis of 4-2-4, with added Sulfur, Boron and Zinc. It works in most soil types and is safe and easy to use. Additionally, Fertrell's Berry Mix can be certified organic, but please contact your certifier before using.

**Berry Mix** is applied in early spring to get berry growth started off right for the season. Typical spring application rates are 4-6 lbs. per 100-foot row, depending on the type of berry. Berry Mix is also applied late in the season, after harvesting, so that nutrients can be absorbed in the plants' roots preparing the them for heavy fruit production the following spring. Typical late season application rates are 6–10 lbs. per 100-foot row, depending on berry type. Information about the complete Fertrell Berry Care Program is available in our Farm and Garden catalog or by contacting one of our agronomists. It is especially important to note that blueberries, which thrive in acidic soils, require additional amendments to maximize production.

**Fertrell's Holly Care** is often used in conjunction with blueberry production because

it lowers soil pH and is beneficial for plants that thrive in acidic soil. Holly Care is an organic based plant food with an analysis of 4-6-4. It is formulated to provide the high level of available Phosphorous fertilizer, with additional Sulfur, required by acid-loving plants. In addition to blueberries, this product is beneficial for: hollies, dogwoods, gardenias, marigolds, rhododendrons, azaleas, ferns, and hydrangeas. Berry Mix is available at Fertrell in 5, 25, or 50 lb. bags. Holly Care comes in 10, 25, or 50 lb. bags. Both of these products can be ordered online at www.fertrell.com or through your Fertrell dealer or salesperson. Contact us to get information about pricing and delivery on these products.





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## 2019 REGIONAL AGRONOMY SCHOOL Balancing for Profitability

August 20-21, 2019

Join us for a two-day workshop where you'll learn how to balance agronomic practices and profitability. This year's Regional Agronomy School will teach how to: manage hay and pasture for high quality; optimize forages for milk production and components; maintain soil health and fertility; and determine the true costs and returns of agronomic practices.

WHERE: KLAAS AND MARY-HOWELL MARTENS FARM 1443 Ridge Rd. Penn Yan, NY 14527 RSVP: To reserve your spot, go to the events page on Farmers.coop or call the Farmer Hotline.

For more information call our Farmer Hotline: 888-809-9297

SAVE THE DATE



#### **CROPP COOPERATIVE**

One Organic Way La Farge, WI 54639

Save the Date REGIONAL AGRONOMY SCHOOL

August 20-21, 2019

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