

Forage Newsletter

Spring 2017



Frost Seeding, The Time is Now

Frost seeding in February and March is an excellent and proven way to improve grassland. There are many advantages to the method:

- No wheel tracks, no compaction
- Easy spreading, fast application
- Seed is there when conditions are right for germination
- Head start over the existing stand – better establishment

Frost seeding is best done in late winter when night frost can still be expected. The freeze – thaw cycles will heave the soil and help to improve the seed-soil contact. The less plant residue is on the soil, the better the seed-soil contact will be. A closely grazed or cut stand will allow for better seed deposit on the soil.

DLF has two products tailor made for this, the Grasshancer Frost Seed Formula grass products and N-Hancer clover mix. They are specially formulated to improve the success of frost seeding.

Grasshancer 300FL/FLC - Frost Seeding Formula

These mixes are based on ryegrass type festulolium (300FL) or in combination with red and white clover (300FLC). The ryegrass festulolium combines rapid germination and establishment, to successfully compete with the existing stand, with high productivity and high feed quality. When combined with the right balance of red and white clover, it adds a self-fertilizing quality to it, saving money on future fertilizer applications. The seed is coated with PlatinumCoat (and clover inoculated) to improve the seed soil contact and facilitate application with a fertilizer spreader. In addition, the seed is treated with a fungicide for protection against seedling diseases.

N-Hancer - Frost Seeding Formula

N-Hancer is a blend of red and white clover. The seed is coated with PlatinumCoat and inoculated, for the best results when frost seeded over an existing pasture. Seeding N-Hancer can replace your N-fertilizer applications, saving hundreds of dollars per acre off your fertilizer bill, while increasing animal productivity.



“Grasshancing is a great way to extend the life of a stand to keep tonnage up as your stand ages.”

Kevin Elenbaas
Elenbaas Company, Lynden, WA



“When I went from corn to grass I saved 50 cents per day, per cow and can produce 50% more dry matter a year. I’ve increased yield without sacrificing quality”

Chad Postma
Lynden, WA

Report from the Field

Grasshance and Get Feed Back

Kevin Elenbaas of Elenbaas Company in Lynden, WA operates a custom application business in the dairy rich NW corner of the country. He has been Grasshancing his customer’s grass fields since the product was introduced.

In the spring of 2016, Kevin acquired a no-till double disk grass seeder with the intentions to have a better machine to plant grass in his customers’ existing pastures. Once the word got out, he was inundated with orders to “Grasshance”. The area’s grasslands are composed mainly of tall fescue and orchardgrass mixes, with small amounts of ryegrass. Due to the harsh management of grasslands under dairy utilization, high rates of traffic and manure, orchardgrass is not very persistent. Dry matter yields drop, weeds appear, and forage quality goes down. Grasshancing provides an excellent tool to increase the production of thinning stands.

Kevin uses the festulolium based Grasshancer 300FL for his program. His customers have seen excellent results. One of his customers, Chad Postma, noted that Grasshancing saves him \$0.50 per cow, per day by having this additional high quality forage. “I will do some every fall”, he states.

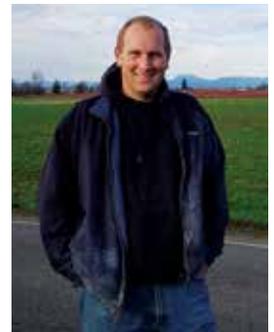
Terry Lensen, who owns an 800 cow dairy farm, has also experienced the benefits of Grasshancing: higher yields and high forage quality. “It is a lot cheaper than turning dirt” he added.



Kevin Elenbaas and Lance Honcoop discussing Chad Postma’s Grasshanced stand, Lynden, WA.

“It is a lot cheaper than turning dirt”

Terry Lensen



Terry Lensen at his dairy farm, Lynden, WA.

Adding Clovers to a Pasture

Clovers will boost your grass yield, more so than high rates of nitrogen can do. In a University of KY trial, a grass/red clover stand out yielded a grass stand with 180 lbs N/acre:

Dry matter yields of fescue-clover vs. fescue-nitrogen, Lexington, 2-year average.

Treatments	Yields, lb/ac
Tall fescue-red clover	
6 lb seed/ac	11,100
Tall fescue + nitrogen	
0 lb/ac	3,900
90 lb/ac	6,700
180 lb/ac	9,900

Renovating Hay and Pasture Fields
G.D. Lacefield and S. Ray Smith, Department of Plant and Soil Sciences
[www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage/agr261%20\(2\).pdf](http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage/agr261%20(2).pdf)

Clovers Increase Animal Performance

Grass/clover stands have higher protein production/acre and an improved palatability over a grass monoculture, resulting in a higher DM intake per animal. New studies have shown that especially red clover has a positive influence on the microflora in the rumen, allowing the animal to have a better conversion of the available protein.

When clovers are grown in toxic endophyte infected [K-31] pastures, the clover has a diluting effect on the toxic grass DM, reducing the animal's response to the toxic edophyte ergot-alkaloids

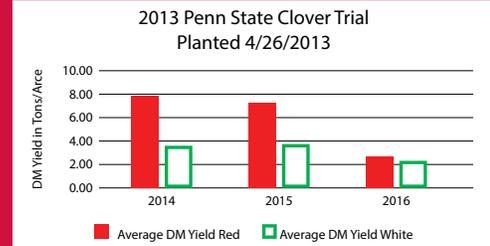
Animal performance on grass vs. legume-grass mixtures.

Species	Length of trials (yrs)	Gain/head (lb/day)	Animal class	State
Tall fescue*	3	0.12	Cows	IN
Tall fescue* + red and ladino clover		0.74		
Tall fescue*	3	1.30	Calves	IN
Tall fescue* + red and ladino clover		1.80		
Orchard-grass	10	1.07	Steers	VA
Orchard-grass + ladino clover		1.28		

*The tall fescue used in each of these studies was endophyte infected.
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Higher DM Yield + Higher Protein Yield + Higher Intake
= More Animal Gain/Acre

N-Hancer is Red and White clover combined. Red clover is more productive, but less persistent than white clover as illustrated in the 2013 Penn State clover trial:



To get the maximum benefit from clovers N-Hancer consists of the best DLF varieties of red and white clover in a 75/25 ratio (weight) to obtain a 50/50 ratio for seed count.





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Visit the New DLF Website

We are proud to announce the release of our newly redesigned website. The new DLF website is mobile and tablet optimized so you can access all of our resources and information from any of your devices. Our resources are at your fingertips with updated forage data, our product brochures, and variety tech sheets. Plus, we have streamlined the navigation and added a quick access downloads section where you can easily view and print information on all the DLF forage varieties. We look forward to adding content and all the newest forage data and resources so that we may better serve our customers.

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