

## He Aerially Seeded Soybeans Into Standing Wheat

When wet weather made it impossible to plant soybeans conventionally, Rick Krone, DuQuoin, Ill., hired a pilot to aerially seed 220 acres of soybeans into standing wheat. It was a gamble that paid off for him as he was expecting 30 bu./acre soybean yield at harvest when we went to press.

A number of other southern Illinois farmers who couldn't get in their fields last spring also took to the air. About 5,000 acres of soybeans were aerially seeded in Krone's area alone.

"My crop input costs were less than they would be for conventionally planted soybeans because I didn't have to work the ground four or five times or spend as much on herbicides," says Krone. "I figure I've got about \$31 per acre invested in my aerially seeded crop, including \$6 per acre for aerial application, \$9 per acre worth for seed, and \$12 per acre for herbicides. The rest was for miscellaneous costs. I should be able to break even with a yield of less than 10 bushels per acre.

"Aerially seeding isn't something I'll ever plan on doing because there's more risk, but it worked out alright this year. The ground

was saturated and luckily we got about two inches of soaking rain within two or three days of seeding which kept the soybean seed moist so it would take root. We got timely rains after that all summer."

Krone aerially seeded 1 1/2 bu., or 90 lbs. per acre, of Group V seed on May 10 when the wheat was just starting to head. He harvested the wheat on June 20 when soybeans were about 1 ft. tall, running the combine cutterbar just above the top soybean leaves. "We had a good wheat stand which choked out weeds so we didn't need to use a burndown herbicide," says Krone. "Within a week the soybeans had canopied and choked off most of the weeds that tried to come up through the wheat stubble. We did apply a broadcast postemergence herbicide. The soybeans grew so fast reaching for sunlight that they developed small stems which caused them to lodge as they grew taller, but they seemed to come back up later on."

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Rick Krone, Rt. 2, Box 279, DuQuoin, Ill. 62832 (ph 618 542-5925 or 5942).

## He Milks Horses

Milking horses is a lot of work but with fresh mare's milk selling for \$13 a quart, German farmer Ulf Helmich, who farms near Hamburg, says it's profitable business.

Horse milk is valued for the hormone estrogen that's present in the milk. Soap containing the milk sells for up to \$20 a pound because estrogen is supposed to be good for the skin.

Helmich milks up to 25 thoroughbreds. He says mares are individualists and decide for themselves when and for how long they will be milked. Each milking squeezes out

a maximum of half a quart. They're milked up to 5 times a day. Any unexpected noise or movement will cause the horse to dry up instantly. One person works nearly full time milking Helmich's mares. The lactation period lasts from 6 to more than 9 months.

Helmich has no trouble selling all the milk he can produce since there are only about 10 horse milk producers in all of Germany. The milk can be kept frozen for up to a year. (Excerpted from *THE FURROW*)

## Ideas To Get Rid Of Stumps

Here are three ways to get rid of stumps around the yard.

- Drill holes in stump, pour in high level N fertilizer, cover with plastic to keep moist.

- Where it's safe to burn, drill holes in the stump and pour in diesel oil. Keep stump covered to keep out water. Top up diesel oil supply from time to time. After a month or so, set fire to stump.

- Set barbecue briquettes inside an open-ended pipe placed upon the stump. Light briquettes and let them burn. (Andy Sirski in *GRAINEWS*, Winnipeg, Canada)

## Chicken Wire Stops Fence Chewing

"We tried everything to keep horses from chewing wood fence rails. Nothing worked until we tried this," says Heather Thomas, who puts chicken wire over all exposed wood in corrals.

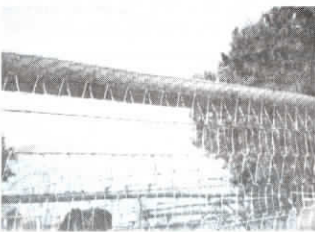
"Out in the pasture we use electric wire to keep horses away from posts but we don't like to use hot wires in our small corrals. We had tried wood preservatives, used motor oil, and other foul-tasting applications but many of them can be harmful or toxic to horses if they do chew on them," says Thomas.

She says all horses leave wood covered with chicken wire alone. The wire should be stapled at frequent intervals to prevent sharp protrusions that could injure a horse.

## He Adds Water To Hay

Wisconsin hay grower Ed Staudinger started adding water to hay as he chops it after he realized that the clouds of dust around choppers and wagons in the field were not really dust but fine bits of stems and leaves that never made it into the wagon.

According to a recent report by Ron Johnson in *Agri-View* newspaper, Staudinger mounted a water tank on the left side of the tractor that pulls the chopper and wagon. A small boom sprays water onto the windrow just ahead of the rear tractor wheel on the right side.



Wood preservatives can be brushed on right over the wire.

"It's not very expensive. A roll of chicken wire will cover a lot of fencing. It can be easily cut to size with tin snips. Staples will be expensive since it takes a lot of them to secure the wire."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Heather Thomas, Box 215, Salmon, Idaho 83467 (ph 208 756-2841).

# "Best Ideas"

**Editor's Note:** Have you got a "best idea" you'd like to share with *FARM SHOW* readers? It might be a new wrinkle in cropping, livestock, machinery or whatever. Maybe it's still experimental but looks promising. Or, maybe you've already proven it works. We'd like to hear about it. Write to: Best Ideas, c/o *FARM SHOW*, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044.

## Turnips Make Great Forage Crop

By Becky Ohlde

Dale and Richard Yoesel didn't just fall off the turnip wagon. In fact, they've got a pretty good hold on it.

These Rulo farmers and dairy producers are raising turnips as supplemental fall and winter pasture for their 50 to 60 yearling Holstein steers and replacement heifers.

"The turnips fill a void at a time when pastures aren't the best," Dale says. "They're also a cheap source of quite a bit of forage."

Last year, the Yoesel brothers had two fields of turnips for a total of 35 acres. They've been using turnips for pasture for at least 4 years, Dale says. The most they've planted was 60 acres.

According to Bruce Anderson, UNL extension forage specialist, turnip tops contain anywhere from 13 to 22 percent protein, while the bottoms or roots can be between 9 and 14 percent protein. The digestibility for the turnip tops and bottoms is between 70 and 87 percent, he adds.

"You can compare the turnips' protein content and digestibility with corn grain that has 10 percent protein and 90 percent digestibility," Anderson says. "Turnips compare favorably as an energy feed."

The Yoesels say turnips work well in a double-cropping situation. "We plant them following wheat," Dale says. "We disk the wheat stubble, field cultivate and then drill the turnip seed at about 3 lbs. per acre (at approximately \$2 per pound)."

According to Anderson, turnip seed should not be planted more than 1/2-in. deep. Dale adds that it takes about 60 days to establish a good stand of turnips for pasture.

"We turned the steers and heifers out onto the first turnip field the first week of October," he says. "We moved them off the first patch, Dec. 1, and put them on the second patch of turnips. Then, because we had to bring the heifers home to start artificially inseminating them, we took them all

off of the turnips the first part of January."

Salt and mineral blocks were the only kind of supplement the Yoesels needed to supply the steers and heifers that were pastured on the turnips.

"We didn't need to feed them hay or anything else," Dale says.

So, do cattle instinctively know that the bottoms, as well as the tops of turnips, are edible?

The Yoesels say the cattle figure it out.

"They eat the tops and chew on the roots that are sticking partially out of the ground," Dale says. "If the ground is loose enough, they can pull the bottoms out and eat them. Because of the dry weather in the past couple years, the ground has been pretty hard. So about two-thirds of the way through the grazing period, we go in with a field cultivator to rip the turnips out of the ground and the cattle eat them."

Dale says the biggest advantage to pasturing turnips, in addition to their use as supplemental feed, is their cost-effectiveness.

"All we have is tillage, planting and seed costs," he says. "We don't fertilize them, though some people do."

Dale sees moisture use as a possible disadvantage to double-cropping turnips. "The turnips might take moisture out of the soil for next year's crop," he says. "Then, the next year's crop might suffer."

Another disadvantage is the high moisture content of the turnips themselves and the effects from that high moisture content on the cattle.

"Because the moisture content of the turnips is high, the cattle manure tends to be pretty 'washy' (loose)," he says, noting that you can solve the problem by feeding a little hay or cornstalks along with the turnips.

(Story reprinted courtesy of *NEBRASKA FARMER*)