World Dairy Expo 2014

Dairy Forage Seminar Stage Schedule

(All seminars to take place at the Dairy Forage Seminar Stage in the back of the Arena building.)

Wednesday, Oct. 1

10:00 a.m. **Making quality baleage with annual forages**

Mike McCormick

Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, Franklinton, LA

Annual forages such as ryegrass and sorghum sudan are often used in double cropping systems, on rental land, or on land unsuitable for growing alfalfa or other forage crops. Putting them up as baleage instead of hay offers many advantages, including lower field losses and higher quality forage. Mike McCormick, Professor Emeritus, Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, offers advice on how to make high quality forage using stretch-wrapped plastic.

1:30 p.m. **Using propionic acid to preserve more hay**

Wayne Coblentz

U.S. Dairy Forage Research Center, Marshfield, WI

Historically, propionic-acid-based preservatives for hay have enjoyed demonstrated effectiveness within research studies, but these studies mostly have been with small rectangular bales. More recent studies with large-round bales have been disappointing, but other studies with large-rectangular bales have produced excellent results. Wayne Coblentz with the U.S. Dairy Forage Research Center will review research results obtained with a variety of bale types and offer practical advice on when and how to use propionic acid to preserve hay.

Thursday, Oct. 2

10:00 a.m. **Undigested NDF and updates to NDF digestibility: New tools in forage analysis**

Mike Van Amburgh

Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

The industry is constantly looking for better ways to improve forage fiber analysis as a tool for comparing forages and for estimating rate of digestion, rumen fill, and intake potential of dairy cattle diets. One of the newer tools is uNDF (undigested neutral detergent fiber). Cornell dairy scientist Mike Van Amburgh explains the new method, compares it to other measures of NDF undigestibility, describes how agronomic conditions impact uNDF independent of lignin content, and shows how the dynamic nature of the uNDF helps explain variation in NDF digestion.

1:30 p.m. **Make sure your kernel processor is doing its job**

Kevin Shinners and Brian Luck

University of Wisconsin-Madison

You know that processing corn silage improves starch utilization in dairy cattle. But do you know if the kernels are being processed adequately at the time of harvest? Kevin Shinners and Brian Luck of the University of Wisconsin-Madison describe an on-farm test that can be used during harvest so you can make equipment adjustments before material goes in the silo. They will also discuss a new "image" approach that may someday be a smart phone app to help assess kernel processing.

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Friday, Oct. 3

10:00 a.m. **Redesigning alfalfa for improved protein utilization: PPO and *o*-diphenols vs. tannins**
John Grabber
U.S. Dairy Forage Research Center, Madison, WI

Improving the utilization of protein in alfalfa by dairy cows would reduce feed costs for producers and lessen the risk of ammonia loss to the environment from manure. Agronomist John Grabber of the U.S. Dairy Forage Research Center describes how these goals could be met by introducing protein-protecting tannins or PPO plus *o*-diphenols into alfalfa.

1:30 p.m. **Manure on forage crops: Benefits and challenges**
Bill Jokela
U.S. Dairy Forage Research Center, Marshfield, WI

Looking for ways to successfully apply manure to forage crops? Soil Scientist Bill Jokela of the U.S. Dairy Forage Research Center discusses the benefits, as well as challenges, of applying manure on alfalfa and grass forages. He will present results from research on manure management and application methods that maximize yield and minimize crop damage and environmental impacts.

Saturday, Oct. 4

10:00 a.m. **Do higher seeding rates improve alfalfa stand persistence and yield?**
Dan Undersander
University of Wisconsin-Madison

It seems logical that more alfalfa seed in the ground would translate to higher yields and better stand persistence. But research at the University of Wisconsin-Madison suggests that this isn't always the case. Extension Forage Agronomist Dan Undersander shares the results of recent research on stand dynamics.