



Farm News

By: Tom Mills
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CUTTING ALFALFA

Alfalfa plants need a rest period during the fall to get ready for winter. To provide for this rest, make the last summer cutting before September 15. After the first hard freeze (24° F or lower), or November 1, a final harvest can be made. This final harvest will not hurt the alfalfa and may reduce pest problems.

Cutting alfalfa stands during this critical fall rest period affects the plant response in the following year. In the least it will reduce the speed of regrowth in the spring, and may reduce the yield of the first cutting. In the worst case, stands may be killed significantly. However, there are situations where the risks of stand damage or future yield reduction from harvesting between September 15 and November 1 are reduced. If (a) the stand is in bloom at the time of the fall cut, or (b) it has been at least 45 days since the last harvest, or (c) the stand is old and will be plowed under for another crop anyway, the value of the forage may be great enough to risk stand damage. Conditions where the risks associated with cuttings during September 15 and November 1 are greatest are: (a) the stand is less than one year old; or (b) the field of alfalfa has been stressed during the past year by late frosts, disease, excessive insects, or weed pressure, etc.; or (c) the alfalfa field has not been adequately top-dressed with P, K, and boron; or (d) the variety lacks multi-year resistance.

In general, it would be better to cut an older stand rather than a younger stand during the fall rest period. Older stands have already allowed the costs of establishment to be recovered and by definition have few reproductive years remaining. Younger stands have more of their productive years ahead of them and as such should not be abused by being cut between September 15 and November 1.

Deciding whether to cut an alfalfa field in late September or early to mid-October is an individual judgment that should be based on the benefits of the extra yield and quality outweighing the risks of yield and stand loss the following year. Keep in mind that you will never hurt the stand by not cutting during the traditional fall rest period. Also keep in mind that fall cutting will affect next years

production. If you do cut during the fall and want to get a few more years of production from the field, make sure that soil fertility needs are taken care of by liberally top-dressing during the late fall or winter and using a dormant herbicide spray to control the growth of winter weeds such as henbit and chickweed.

If the alfalfa is to be removed by grazing, don't leave livestock on it too long and don't let them graze when the soil is muddy to prevent damage to the stand. Grazing of alfalfa is becoming more popular in

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Fall Fashion and Fabric

By: Hazel Jackson
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The days are getting shorter and the sound of fall is in the air. We have enjoyed the wonderful spring and summer months, but we look forward to that change of seasons which is just around the corner. So what does fall 2003 have in store? If you long for a return to classics, you are going to enjoy and appreciate the season.

There are a number of positives on the horizon for fall fashions. For starters, we are beginning to see some renewed interest in fashion. Maybe this renewed interest has come as a result of the listening ear the industry has to the consumer these days. Consumers are in control as never before! Apparel prices are down - a boost for the consumer, but a peril for the industry. And, on the horizon, a change in hemlines. For some of us, this is a welcomed signal, for others, a wicked curse!

Women's wear styling has remained somewhat guarded or restrained in recent seasons. Some individuals find this situation boring while others view it as realistic and refreshing. History

tells us that fashion is a visual depiction of the times. The classic styling so popular this season, is typical of times in which the economy has been compromised. As a diversion, American fall collections seem to be sprinkled with Mod and Space Age looks. Overall, the styling combines ladylike refinement and sophistication with a bit of girlish charm.

Classic styling 2003 has its own twists. Silhouettes are basically clean-cut and simple. Of specific importance is A-line, princess-line seaming, and tube fashions. Suits are plentiful as are sweater sets, skirts and other separates. There is a definite balance between masculine and feminine styling. Look for lots of couture touches like banding, piping, decorative buttons and hardware.

The big news in hemlines. Although a lot of lengths will still be featured, there is a trend toward the mini - the very short (14 inch) mini to be exact. The minis that

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"Celebrating Native American Culture" was the theme of the County Annual Extension Homemakers meeting on September 22nd. County president Millie Eaton, above, presided over the meeting. Vice president Cathleen Stevens, above left, secretary Lydia McLemore and treasurer Virginia Hapsel, also assisted with the business meeting. Special guests included Loretta Robinson from the Central Kentucky Blood Center and Noreita Thompson, Wilderness Trail Extension Homemakers president.

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So, bring your family by and enjoy a hotdog and Pepsi and register for a DVD player and color T.V. to be given away on Oct. 11. Let us show you that **we deliver what others promise**.

Also, look over our many different types of oxygen tanks, wheelchairs, both manual and electric, different types of shoes for diabetics and supplies, beds and mattresses with air and gel for comfort.

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Stop by and see Richard and Tammy Barnes, Tracie Smith or Keith Bussell

Drawing for DVD player and color T.V. will be held Saturday, October 11 at 3 p.m.

You do not have to be present to win