ELENBAAS COMPANY
AGRONOMY DIVISION

421 BIRCHBAY-LYNDEN RD
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The Forage Advisor

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1 DECEMBER 2009

COMING SOON....

- Evaluate forage quality
- Spring soil testing
- Grass stand evaluation
- Spring glyphosate application
- Hybrid and grass variety selection
- Monitor T-sum 200 before manure applica-

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Happy New Year from Elenbaas Agronomy!

Wow, what a year: Record low milk prices, formidable feed costs, a shaky financial system, not to mention all the daily challenges we face as farmers. All of us at the Elenbaas Co. appreciate all that you do and thank-you for all of your support you have shown us. We wish you all the best that 2010 brings and hope you all did enjoy your families and friends this Christmas season. 2009 was a year of change and challenges for the Agronomy staff, Gary Hertel, our manager, was diagnosed with cancer this past spring,, and has endured surgery, chemotherapy and the whole time continued to consult with customers and perform his management duties! We are elated and thankful for his full recovery. On a sadder note, our beloved office manager Louise VanIperen lost her battle with brain cancer and left this world for a better place. Louise was a beautiful, patient woman, we miss her very much. Steve Groen returned to our staff as a field consultant and Larinda Linville is our new office manager. Terry Svoboda has recently joined our team. Terry will be advising crop and dairy farmers in King, Snohomish, and Skagit counties. Terry brings much experience and knowledge to our agronomy team. The year 2009 was another record-breaking year in sales for our agronomy division, we appreciate your trust in us to provide you with the best products and services the industry has to offer. We are excited to announce the construction of a larger, new tank farm, this will enable us more flexibility in offering custom liquid blends, tailor-made for your forage and crop programs. We are also expanding our equipment line for the 2010 season to ensure you faster, more efficient service. In this and following issues of the Forage Advisor, we will discuss a wide array of topics that are important to your farming operations. Feel free to tell any of our staff what topics you would like us to address concerning forage quality, crop health, agronomics, grass varieties and corn hybrids just to mention a few items, we look forward to hearing from you! Check us out anytime on the web at www.elenbaasco.com.

Whatcom co. custom side dress and Corn cultivation sometime last June

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Focus on Fertility: Copper (Cu)

Copper's role is essential to forages and cannot be underestimated. Copper deficiency in corn plant's results in poor grain formation which ultimately means lower starch levels in your corn silage. In grass, a copper deficiency will inhibit the formation of chlorophyll. Without chlorophyll a forage plant cannot complete the process of photosynthesis, which is essential to sugar, fiber, and amino acids production. Unfortunately, copper deficiencies and excesses visually are impossible to detect unless they are extreme in nature, what that means is you might be losing yield and quality and not even realize it. A good rule of thumb for you to consider is that a typical forage or corn crop will remove about half a lb. of elemental copper annually.

Plants only require very small amounts of copper, excessive agronomic amounts are toxic to plants. A thorough evaluation of you soil tests and plant tissue analysis will help you as a forage producer avoid deficiencies or toxic levels of any plant nutrient. In our region, forage plant tissue analysis has been largely ignored, even though it is an inexpensive, excellent tool that could save or make a producer thousands of dollars, for less than fifty dollars!

Excessive soil copper levels needs to be taken seriously by dairy producers. The potential for copper to build to dangerously high levels is a real concern, especially on dairies. Because of its excellent fungicidal activity and relatively cheap price, it is usually a farmer's first choice for a foot bath solution. Copper, a soil cation attaches easily to soil particles especially in our high organic matter soils in western WA. We encourage farmers to give careful attention to what decades long use of copper sulfate can effect soil health. We, at Elenbaas Agronomy encourage you to consider alternative rotations, such as Sanidate HB, to avoid the consequences of excessively high levels of copper in your soil. Sanidate HB contains two active ingredients, hydrogen peroxide and perioxyacetic acid. Unlike hydrogen peroxide formulations of the past, Sanidate HB relies not only on hydrogen peroxide but includes the killing power of perioxyiacetic acid, which upon contact of a pathogenic organism, destroys the cell nucleus resulting in cell destruction. Producers report good preventative success and prefer the health and environmental safety benefits over formaldehyde and copper sulfate. Penn State University has posted a help publication on the web to help you determine what your use of copper sulfate means to you, http://www.das.psu.edu/news/dd200403-03. Call us, we are here to help.