



Fertrell Notes & Quotes

The Fertrell Company:
A Friend of Nature Since 1946

Luann Brubaker, Editor

Notes from the President's Desk:

Springtime is the greatest season of the year. We look with eyes of appreciation and excitement for new growth. The coming to life of plants that went to sleep last fall.

The germination of seeds, planted in starter beds to be transplanted later. Anticipation of a good growing season fuels over ambitions. We demonstrate some real tenderness toward this new life as it unfolds before us. For those who choose to believe in a creator, this is evidence to support our beliefs.

My desire today is to proclaim that as we observe life from above the soil surface, there is a variety of life in the soil. These life forms are important to healthy plants above the surface. The size of these creatures varies from very tiny to those we can hold in our hands. Perhaps the most outstanding feature is their ability to reside together and the apparent reason for their existence.

The relationship of one life form to another is one of servitude. We may prefer to think of this as a support mechanism. At

any rate, we can learn much from this characteristic. As this soil life harmonizes, it provides excellent opportunities for biomasses to develop. This feature provides habitat for more soil life and we benefit in many ways.

At Fertrell we believe that healthy soil life will reduce the miseries that often are present in growing.

- 1) We believe that weed control is easier
- 2) We believe that disease issues are lessened
- 3) We believe that biomass builds organic matter
- 4) We can improve moisture retention

This is an effort to create an awareness of life forms that make our lives better. In the next issue we will look at the soil food web.



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SPECIAL NOTICE TO OUR CUSTOMERS:

REMINDER NOTICE TO ALL CERTIFIED ORGANIC GROWERS: When placing your orders via phone or with your sales person, please make sure you specify that you need a certified organic product so the persons pulling the products pull the right package. For example we have two Swine Growers, one with Lysine (non certified) and one without Lysine (certified). Fertrell manufactures both natural

and organic products so please do not assume that we know you are certified or need a certified product. We count on our customers to provide that information to us as we are still human and errors can and will be made. Your help in this matter will help to alleviate any confusion in the warehouse or in the office. Thanks so much for your cooperation. We will both reap the benefits.

Upcoming Events:

NOFA SUMMER CONFERENCE: 32nd annual Summer Conference from August 10-13, 2006, Amherst, MA, for more information call 978-355-2853 or email at nofa@nofamass.org.

The Farmer-to-Farmer Market Place:

Connecting farmers to farmers for products they have to sell or need to buy.

You must be a Fertrell customer and any crops or animals must have been fertilized or fed with Fertrell



products. We will not get involved in any monetary transactions. The ad may contain grains, forages, cows, equipment, Include name, address, email, phone #, type of product, and any information that is pertinent to the ad. First come first served. The ad will be run one time and then you will need to resubmit if you wish it to be included again. Email jeffmattocks@fertrell.com or don@fertrell.com or call the office at 717-367-1566 by 10th of month before publication.

FOR SALE: Paperbound Book from the American Pastured Poultry Producers

Assoc: a 250 page 8.5 x 11" paperbound book with chapters on Pastured Poultry, brooding, genetics shelter designs, day range systems, equipment, eggs on pasture, turkeys, ducks and other poultry, poultry nutrition and health, processing marketing, record-keeping and insurance, \$39.95 plus \$5.00 shipping and handling. Contact Karen Black 36475 Norton Creek Rd, Blodgett, OR 97326. or Karen@plamondon.com, please allow 2 weeks for shipping.

20 Black Angus Cattle ready for slaugh-

ter: home-raised, fed organically, call between 7 and 7:15 Wednesday only at 570-538-5471 or contact by mail and give phone number and contact information to Henry Martin, 651 Glaze Road, Watson-town, PA 17777 and he will call you.

Md. Certified Organic Hay: Small square bales: timothy \$4.00/bale; grass \$3.00/bale. Call Charles Brault at 301-351-9186, 13631 Graceham Road, Thurmont, MD 21788.

Wanted: Organic Laying Hens, Emmanuel Smucker, 911 Henry Road, Sligo, PA 16255 Wants them to be laying by May 5th.

New Products:

DRY ARAGONITE both fine and coarse now available in bulk and bagged. This product can be used in place of lime as your calcium source and is readily available to your crop this season. The product is from both coral and seashells which were once living creatures. Many soils have had dolomite lime added for years and the magnesium may be tying up other nutrients in the soil. **Gypsum and aragonite** should be used to offset a high magnesium soil. Be sure to get yours for this Spring.

Fertrell's Gold Label 4X RC: Four times the strength of our existing rumicult. With the times of high freight costs, Fertrell wants to help reduce your shipping costs and have packaged this in a 25# bag and made it four times more concentrated.

Spraying Compost Tea: If you haven't heard about our compost tea spraying program, please contact our office immediately. This product has done amazing things for farmers who have used it on their hay crop that had weed pressure; greener, healthier plants develop that tolerate drought. This product loosens up the soil and helps dissolve wet spots and releases nutrients that have been tied up in the soil for years.

Important Spring Planting Information for farmers/gardeners:

Better Forage quality means less grain purchases—first cutting of hay should be made BEFORE your corn is planted. In other words don't get caught up in planting your corn that you forget about your hay. If you do not get your first cutting of hay by May 15 plus or minus 5 days you will have disrupted your whole hay crop for the season. This time frame applies to the whole eastern seaboard from Maine to Florida. Grasses should be first—by May 10th and Legumes should be 2nd—by May 20th.

Farmers have told us about their success with our Kelp meal to plant with their seeds to prevent root worm problems. It is applied at an application rate of 15# per acre for the first year put in with the seed at planting. Get your order in now so it is available for you when the ground is ready to plant.

For short growing seasons use our **Gold Special Starter** to promote speedy germination and rapid and vigorous growth. **Fertrell No Phos 4-0-4** has been blended from natural components for the purpose of meeting environmental needs, especially designed

for waterfront properties where phosphate run off is a concern. **Turfmaster 8-1-8**, an all natural fertilizer for your lawn is also available in Fairway and Greens grade. **Super 3-2-3** is suited for most plant food applications, and is particularly well formulated for gardens and very effective for spring plantings. It will remain available throughout the growing season and will not leach away.

If you are looking for a product for your compost pile, our **Alfalfa Meal** provides an excellent source of nitrogen for compost piles and can also be used in your garden as an excellent soil conditioner.

For rabbit and deer pressure in your garden, surround the perimeter of your garden with a band of **Blood Meal**. This can also be used in your compost piles to increase the speed of decomposition.

Don't forget about our **liquid fish fertilizers** which provide an absorption rate of 90-95% through the leaves, where the nutrients are rapidly translocated throughout the plant to the root system.

Restore important trace minerals and micronutrients to your soil by the use of **Azomite and Greensand**.

Dealer's News from the Field:

This section will include news from the field. Deadline for submission will be the 10th of the month. Please keep your information brief and to the point. Email your information to luann@fertrell.com or fax into the office at 717-367-9319 att: Luann. Note: Please see our website for dealer addresses and phone numbers of a dealer near you.

Congratulations to the following new dealers: **AR:** **Little Portion Hermitage**, 350 CR 248, Berryville, AR 72616 479-253-7710 email troubadour@arkansas.org

CO & UT: **Natural Farm & Ranch**, PO Box 212, Austin, CO 81410 970-234-3951 www.naturalfarmandranch.com

IL: **Walt Gregory**, 25873 State Hwy 3, Dow, IL 62022 618-466-5950

MI: Acres Co-op Inc., PO Box 295, Scotts-

ville, MI 49454 231-757-2881

East Lansing Food Co-op, 4960 Northwind Drive, East Lansing, MI 48823 517-337-1266 Please note corrected spelling

Farmer's Co-op Elevator, 3300 Prospect Street, Hudsonville, MI 49426 616-669-9596

Growco Garden Supply, 1042 Michigan Street, NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 616-454-6900

Harvest Health Natural Foods, 6817 Cascade Rd. Grand Rapids, MI 49546 616-975-7555

Seeds N Spores, 724 Greenfield Road, Marquette, MI 49855 906-458-8616

MO: **Michael McGowan**, 10500 E. Mt Zion Church Rd., Hallsville, MO 65255

NC: **Mountain Harvest Garden Center**

600 Charlotte Hwy, Fairview, NC 28730 828-298-9000

NY: **Roy Budd**, 4121 Dundee Himrod Road, Dundee, NY 14837 315-730-2027

Heather's, 5031 W. Lake Road, Mayville, NY 14757 716-753-3100

Justin Jeanroy, 4121 Dundee Himrod Road, Dundee, NY 14837 607-227-8004

Organic Recycling, 121 Rte 303, Orangeburg, PA 10962 845-398-2935

PA: **Ashcombe Farm and Greenhouses** 906 West Grantham Road, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055 717-766-7611 www.ashcombe.com

Little Crick Farm, RR#1, Box 100, Stevensville, PA 18845, 570-746-3631

Newville Feed & Hardware: 697 N High Street, 697 N High Street, Newville, PA 17241 717-776-5777

MEET OUR OFFICE STAFF:

Theresa Tredway, Office Manager, started June 3, 1993. Theresa enjoys spending time with family and friends, loves the outdoors, dancing, knitting and crocheting. Just to correct any misconceptions that you may have about Theresa, she is actually from Germany where her mother and most of her family still reside. She has three sons. She and her husband live in Bainbridge.

Paul Douglass, Production Manager. Started with Fertrell on December 1, 2002. Paul is responsible for all manufacturing personnel, new products, packaging materials and equipment necessary for production of feed and fertilizer. He oversees the staging, loading and shipping of orders. Paul has been married for 21 years with three daughters, 19, 18, and 15. He retired as Master Sergeant from the Air force. Hobbies include hunting, fishing and boasts to be a diehard Buffalo Bills' Fan.

PRODUCTION/MANUFACTURING TEAM:

Edgar Lackey has been with Fertrell since 1992. He loads and unloads vans, trailers, stages loads. He is in charge of overseeing the unloading of the dump trailers in the bulk bins where our commodities are stored. His main job involves drying the greensand and keeping that machinery running. His hobbies include hunting, fishing, helping friends out. He enjoys a good pig roast with his friends and taking his dogs for long walks along the river and camping out.

Charles Mitchell has worked with Fertrell since March of 2001. Charlie is responsible for making the feed and helps with setting up loads and unloading trucks. He claims to be the comic relief for the guys he works with. Charlie has three children, two dogs, likes cars and bikes, hunting, fishing, professional "rastling," and cooking.

Tony Vuxta started in January 2004, and does our deliveries, and helps with whatever else needs done. Tony enjoys hunting, fishing, trapping, and has spent several months as a hunting guide in Western Idaho.

Martin Mitchell started April 15, 2004. Martin is responsible for making sure the fertilizer is mixed and helps out on the fertilizer line as well as wherever else they need him. Martin has a son and two daughters and enjoys the great outdoors.

Steve Quinn started in October 2004. Steve has worked in several areas: small packaging, liquid fish production, load and unload trucks, bagging feed and fertilizer. He will be working with the granulator when it is finished. He likes to hunt and fish.

Arlington Blantz is our newest employee, starting on February 28, 2006. He is helping Charlie with feed and like Tony, wherever else he is needed. He likes working outside and having fun at it. He has two daughters and two sons.

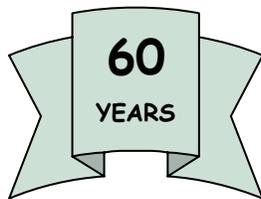


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We're on the web
www.fertrell.com

A Friend of Nature Since 1946



1946-2006

Spring Showers bring... notes from the editor



The days are finally longer and we are spending more time out-of-doors working on the yard and garden and enjoying fresh air and sunshine. A long awaited Spring is in the air. What a refreshing experience it is to hear the birds chirping in the morning and finally waking up to the sun coming up over the horizon instead of lingering darkness. We are forever reminded that Spring showers bring May flowers...something I constantly remind myself as I anxiously await the soil to be fit to plant.

A couple of gardening tips I have for you this Spring is to remember to put WeedBan down when you plant your transplants in the flower beds. This will save a lot of weeding on those hot summer days which will soon be upon us. Even if I don't get it down in early March I still put it down when I plant

my flowers to help prevent future weed seeds from sprouting. An August application is also very important. It will take a couple of years of this practice to get the beds to where they won't have a lot of weeds.

Purchase some of our Bulb Right for planting with your spring bulbs to keep the moles and voles away and provide a slow release calcium source. It can also be used as a landscaping material in place of stone.

Be sure to have on hand a bag of Earth Friendly All Purpose or a bag of our Super 3-2-3 to add to your garden as well as to your hanging pots. Hanging pots should be fertilized weekly as the existing fertilizer in the pots disappears with watering. I would also recommend our vermicompost tea gran-

ules in your flower beds or for that tree that just isn't looking too well. Apply to areas where water lays to help with drainage. Last years summer trials showed increased fruit size and sweetness. Strawberries and heirloom tomatoes were sweeter and meatier—no hollow centers. Cucumbers had very little seeds.

Have some Rose Food on hand to apply a small amount to your roses after each bloom. Never water your roses from the top but let water flow gently along the top of the soil. Always work rose food into the soil around the plant. Whatever your garden needs, Fertrell has something to help you achieve a beautiful well-balanced soil that you can be proud of.