

Fertrell Notes & Quotes



The Fertrell Company:
A Friend of Nature Since 1946

Tracy Mattocks, Editor

Notes from the President's Desk: Dave Mattocks



January - the month that opens a new year and brings the opportunity to change. Resolutions are made, and resolutions are broken.

As we open the new year, will the desire for improvement be strong enough to experience success?

Sadly, many good ideas and the ambition to carry out these ideas will lose momentum quickly. The result is disappointment, lost opportunity and weakened determination to succeed.

Year after year, the responsibility for change falls on a diminishing number in our land.

Too often it is easier to give in to defeat than to stand firm on our convictions. Flowing with the current can only lead to destruction. Standing beside any waterway, we witness debris that once had life, purpose and promise.

As this newsletter comes to you, there are many changes contemplated for farmers and related industries.

Some changes are intended to protect consumers, but are they really protecting, or are they attempting to become our overseer and usurp our freedom of choice?

Have we become so illiterate that Big Brother needs to assume a more controlling role? The ability to decide how to spend our time and money is being given to another entity.

Is it too late? Maybe and maybe not. Resistance can slow the maddening pace and allow time for constructive thinking. It is time to take back the right of choice and decision making.

In the coming year, let us make the necessary effort to improve our surroundings. Let us be conscious of others, their needs and their right of choice.

If we put forth our best effort, it will be enough. By giving we will find prosperity and happiness. This is my personal wish for you and yours.

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Featured Product! Denali Gold!

Fertrell Introduces Denali Gold™ All Organic Soil Amendment. The most important component of soil is humus. Humus, often described as the "life-force" of soil, increases soil water absorption and improves soil workability. Denali Gold™ Alaskan Humus can be used as a seed germinator, soil amendment, mulch, or a top dressing for lawns and gardens.



Contact your local Fertrell Representative for additional information.

Mold -Toxins and Winter Preparation: by Jeff Mattocks

The Problem You Don't See!

Last year in January, I wrote about the problems that molds and toxins cause. I thought "Now everybody knows the potential for illness and death and the costs associated with both these things." I also thought I would see more forage and feed samples being tested for molds and toxins. Guess what? Of over 100 samples I have looked at so far this fall and winter, only four were checked for toxins. Only Four! More ironically, I have been to farms where I can see the molds, but I don't have any clue how bad the toxins are because no testing has been done.

Now I hear murmuring and whispers of strange diarrheas containing blood, or cases where one or two cows develop something that does not resemble regular winter dysentery. So I get asked "What do you think is causing this?" Well, it could be several things, including salmonella, E-Coli, mold growth, toxin formation, bird, cat, dog, rat, mouse or chicken manure-related bacteria. There are so many possibilities that could cause the problem. Do you think it might be wise to check the things that are easily tested to know whether they are safe or not safe?

I just called Skyview Laboratory, the lab we use to test our forages, to see how much a mold and toxin test cost. Verdean Keyser quoted a price of 40 dollars for the mold and toxin test and 25 dollars for the toxin-only test. That means that for \$125-\$200 you could test five samples per year to ensure that your forages are good. If you cause one death, one abortion, or 100,000 extra on the somatic cell count - HOW MUCH DID YOU LOSE?

Are You Ready?

I know it doesn't look like it just now, and you're not ready to think about it, but spring is right around the corner. Are you ready for it? Have you;

Ordered:

lime, fertilizer, seed, chicks, pullets feed, equipment parts, grease and oil

Prepared:

equipment such as planters, seeders, plows, disc, harrows, mowers, balers, rakes, tilters, brooders, hen house, electro netting, chargers, feeders, waterers, mineral feeders,

January through March is a great time to get all these things ready, because when April comes everyone will be busy in the fields and won't have time to get it all done. (Plus it will help keep you busy so you won't have the time to go to the "Snake Oil" sales meetings that are usually going on in the winter.)

I have found it advantageous to create a list of things that I should do each spring to prepare. I make extra copies of the list and leave extra space for new tasks to be added. This way, each year I don't need to rely on my memory to remind me of what I did last year or what I need to do. I just pull out my list and start working through it. Then when the time comes I only have a couple things left that I procrastinated on and have to rush around to get ready.

I hope you all have had a wonderful holiday season, and I want to wish you all a great 2008!



Upcoming Events:

Long Island Cauliflower Turf Show January 15, 2008, Riverhead, NY Info: (631)727-2212

Nofa MA Annual Winter Conference, January 18, 2008, Bancroft School, Worcester, MA Info: Tom at seedpotato@yahoo.com or (781)894-4358

NOFA-NY Winter Organic Farming and Gardening Conference January 25 - 27, 2008, Saratoga Springs, NY Info: Kate Mendenhall (585) 271-1979 or Projects@nofany.org

Nofa NJ 2008 Annual Winter Conference January 26, 2008, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ Info: www.nofanj.org or 609/737-6848

Horizon Organic Dairy Meeting - January 29, 2008, 10am - 2pm, Seven Springs Resort, Seven Springs, PA

17th Annual Farming for the Future Conference February 7 - 9, 2008, Penn state Conference Center, State College, PA Info: (814) 349-9856 or email info@pasafarming.org

District Rose Meeting February 16, 2008, Eden Resort Inn, Lancaster, PA

19th annual Upper Midwest Organic Farming Conference February 21 - 23, 2008 at the La Crosse Center in downtown La Crosse, WI Info: (715) 772-3153 or info@mosesorganic.org

Organic Turf Trade Show February 26, 2008, Old Bethpage Village Restoration Reception Center, Round Swamp Road, Old Bethpage, NY contact www.neighborhood-network.org or (631)963-5454

Health From the Ground Up February 28, - March 1, 2008 in Lititz PA. Featured speaker is Joel Salatin, a pioneer and innovator in sustainable agriculture. For information regarding this meeting, please contact Sandra M Chase, MD - phone (703)273-5250 or email: smchase1@verizon.net

Annual educational conference and Eco- Marketplace, March 6-8, 2008, MassMutual Center, Springfield MA. Info: (617)436-5838 or email ela.info@comcast.net

Question Corner???

My eggs are too big - what can I do?

Your egg size is too large because either the hen got older or the weather got colder. Both of these situations require a hen to eat more feed for energy needs. Of course the cold weather dictates more feed for warmth. In the case of the older hen, this is for increased body size maintenance. The bigger she gets the more feed she needs. So the cure for both circumstances is to increase corn or other energy sources and decrease the protein slightly to maintain egg size. Usually a 100 lb decrease in protein and 100 lb increase of corn per ton of feed will settle the problem.

What can we do for mold problem in silage & haylage this year (due to warm weather)?

It is true that some corn hybrids and some varieties of hays have had difficulty fermenting correctly this year due to a warmer season. I can't say that I have seen this everywhere or in most cases. It seems to be affecting the dryer silages that may have been frosted or just harvested late. I think some of the reason is poor pack and oxygen removal. I also think some is attributable to plant or forage stress prior to harvest.

Regardless of what caused the mold you may be stuck with feeding it. So to lessen the problems it may cause, I would recommend feeding some Redmond conditioner to help buffer the toxins through. I would also recommend increasing the level of Kelp meal to support the immune system and help buffer any nitrates that may be present in the forages. The other thing that will help is to increase your vitamin level, direct fed microbial and trace minerals with Rumi Cult or RC Gold 4X to support better health and better digestion through the winter.



The Farmer-to-Farmer Market Place:

Connecting farmers to farmers for products they want 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, livestock, 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 twice, 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.

Hay, Forages, Grains and Livestock

Organic & Non-GMO Roasted Soybeans & Corn

Bags, Totes, Bulk --- Ground, Rolled, Whole Picked Up --- Freight Arranged, Nutritional Blending, Inc. (800) 285-0796 nbisoybean.com (N0107)

Certified Organic Balage 4 x 4 round bales, approximately 1000 lbs each, 300 bales available. Contact Tom and Sally Brown, Groton, NY 607-898-4401 (N0108)

Equipment:

Poultry Processing Equipment Ashley, Pickwick, Featherman, Poultryman pickers and scalders. Vacuum packing machines, shrink bags, knives, kill cones and any equipment for poultry processing. We ship anywhere; Jim McLaughlin, Cornerstone Farm Ventures, Norwich, New York (800) 249-1585 or on the web at www.chickenpickers.com

Williams Tool System Flat Spade Cultivator Includes 3pt hitch, 78" tool bar, 4 side knives (flat spades), pair of gauge wheels, \$550, (used only 3 hrs. purchased new for \$950) (814)692-8432 (N01107)

Vicon Spreader on ground drive trailer can be put on tractor for P.T.O Drive., Zimmerman Lime and Fertilizer, (717)629-4155 - Paul (N01107)

Williams 5 ton Fertilizer Spreader with 6.5 HP Honda Engine or P.T.O Option. Zimmerman Lime and Fertilizer, (717)629-4155 - Paul (N01107)

Bagging Scale (OM2) by Seedburo Equipment Company. Take the labor out of bagging your grains! Attach bag, pull handle, and the bag will automatically fill to the desired weight (15-115 pounds). 3 1/2 years old. New cost \$2000. Will sell for \$1000 plus shipping. (207)728-3150 or email northernmostfeeds@yahoo.com (N01107)



Tips from the Front!

Please note during the winter season, if you have an order with us, and we are arranging trucking, we should be made aware if shipments should be delayed because of bad road conditions.

Also, we would like to suggest that you keep some extra product on hand, should bad road conditions delay production or delivery of product.



Featured Product! Udder Joy!

Udder Joy contains a blend of natural oils and botanical extracts, with Greek oregano oil that quickly penetrates the external tissue. Udder Joy has the active ingredient Regano, plus Tea Tree Oil.

Apply generously to the affected area, such as bag, sore teats, cuts, abrasions. Apply 10 ml per quarter after each milking. Massage into affected area for 2-4 days or as required.

Available in a 32 oz bottle

Introduction to Fertrell's Newest Fish Products: By Don Brubaker

The Fertrell Company is now offering two new Hydrolized Organic Fish Fertilizer products, derived from catfish. One is blended for lawns (Mega Green), and one is blended for use on vegetables, flowers and field crops (Multi Bloom). Both are OMRI listed. Check with your organic certifier about their expectants of the product.

The catfish product is blended to travel through 200 mesh screen, which will make it ideal for vegetable and greenhouse growers. There is no fishy odor because of a mint scent added. Due to the slow release of nutrients there will be no plant burn. It is made up of 17 amino acids ready for use by plants.

The typical application rate is 2.5 gallon of Mega Green per 50 gallon of water at a rate of 50 gallon of water per acre. Or 4 ounces per gallon at a rate of 1 gallon 1000 square feet. Apply this monthly throughout the growing season.

The Typical application rates for Multi Bloom are:

Vegetables and Berries 1 to 2 gallons per acre with sufficient water for complete coverage. Apply every 10 to 14 days during the growing season.

Fruits and Vegetables Foliar apply 2.5 to 5 gallons per acre during spray cycle (pre bloom, summer and fall). Apply with 100 gallons of water to ensure complete coverage.

Field crops Foliar apply at 1 to 2 gallon per acre when plants are in the 5 to 10 inch stage and again 3 to 4 weeks later.

In the coming months more information will be available through your local Fertrell Representative. Mega Green and MultiBloom are available in the following sizes:

Package	Size
Plastic Bottle	32 oz (hose end)
Plastic Bottle	32 oz (concentrate)
Plastic Jug	2.5 gal (concentrate)

Both products are available in larger amounts through special order.



Gardening Tips for Homeowners

Thoughts for the gardener in 2008

- Plan now for the veggies you will grow.
- Decide on companion planting for allopathic benefits.
- Sample soils for optimum production if you have not already done so.
- Recheck the availability of your seed selection.
- Research your insect control options.



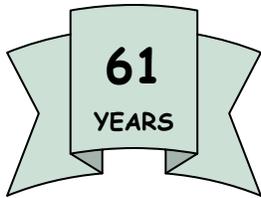


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www.fertrell.com

A Friend of Nature Since 1946



1946-2007

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Dealers 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. Fax into the office at 717-367-9319 att: News from the Field. Or e-mail news@fertrell.com Note: Please see our website for dealer addresses and phone numbers of a dealer near you.

Your experiences throughout the growing season would be appreciated! Questions, comments, success stories, problems and suggestions are welcome. Please submit to the Fertrell Office by February 10, 2007

Congratulations to the following new dealers:

Peach Valley Dairy PO Box 212, Austin, CO 81420 info@peachvalleydairy.com, www.peachvalleydairy.com (970) 234-3951

Mel's Guava 30910 SW 214 Ave., Homestead, FL 33030 (407)257-9411

George Lake 4962 Greystone Lane, Tyrone, PA 16686 (814)632-8609