

## **Graziers' Comments**

### **Ed Heckman**

Does your fence ever short out on your corner brace wire? Three suggestions -- use black electric tape on tube insulators; use thick-wall plastic tube material or black plastic water line; or use old mil "line" over the brace wire.

I throw ryegrass onto bare spots as I walk my paddocks. I know of graziers who toss red clover, white clover or birdsfoot trefoil in "light " legume areas.

Use corn syrup to inoculate legume seeds; the trick is to get the proper amount -- too much produces a blob and too little will not allow the inoculant to stick. Milk will also work.

Apply potassium in late summer or early fall.

For an area with no electric power -- fill the gas tank of a small gasoline powered pump with just enough gas to fill the water tank. Start it up and leave. Let it run out of gas. Repeat daily, as needed.

Accomplish the great task by completing a series of small acts.

A way to encourage animals to eat low quality stored forage is to spray it with a mixture of molasses and water. Spray what you want them to eat in a day.

What ends up growing on a given patch of soil is more strongly influenced by subsequent history and the attributes of the area than by seed distribution. What will survive there a year or two after seeding is almost independent of seeding rate. Grazing management has a much greater effect on stand composition after a year or two than does seeding rate or seed mixture.

The pH of the top 1/8 to 1/2 inch of soil is very critical to legume germination. The decay of residue in this level produces an acid environment.

In a soil loss study in Coshocton, Ohio, a grazed pasture lost less than 0.5 ton of soil per acre during the winter and 0.1 ton per acre during the growing season. This makes managed pastures among the best agricultural systems for preserving water quality and preventing soil erosion.

Begin grazing tall fescue before it is six inches tall. Repeat every seven days. This thickens the stand by increasing the number of tillers. Later summer growth will be primarily low toxicity leaves.

Go to <http://www.agry.purdue.edu/ext/forages/rotational/index.html> for pasture management information, graziers' philosophy and management techniques, watering systems and fencing systems information.