

KEKA RADIO BROADCAST

GARY MARKEGARD  
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NOW IS A GOOD TIME TO RESEED PASTURES THAT ARE LOW IN PRODUCTION. BY RESEEDING AND FERTILIZING THESE PASTURES YOU CAN DOUBLE OR EVEN TRIPLE YOUR FORAGE PRODUCTION.

SOME SEEDBED PREPARATION NEEDS TO BE DONE. IF THERE IS A LOT OF LITTER AND WEEDS IN THE PASTURE, IT IS A GOOD IDEA TO DISK AND PLOW THE PASTURE. THE SEEDBED SHOULD BE SMOOTH AND FIRM, SO YOU MAY HAVE TO DISK A PLOWED FIELD SEVERAL TIMES. PASTURES THAT ARE CLOSELY GRAZED NEED TO BE DISKED OR WORKED WITH A SPIKE-TOOTH HARROW. THE SEEDS NEED TO HAVE LOOSE SOIL IN WHICH TO GERMINATE AND AN ENVIRONMENT FREE FROM COMPETITION.

THERE ARE A NUMBER OF WAYS IN WHICH TO SEED — THE SEED CAN BE BROADCAST WITH A 'WHIRLY-BIRD' SEEDER OR THEY CAN BE SEEDED WITH A GRAIN DRILL OR RANGE SEEDER.

SOME OF THE GRASSES WE RECOMMEND INCLUDE RYEGRASSES — PERENNIAL AND ANNUAL, ORCHARDGRASS, FAWN TALL FECUE, AND SUBTERRANEAN CLOVER. THE SUBCLOVER NEEDS TO BE INOCULATED BEFORE SEEDING TO GET THE RIGHT TYPE OF BACTERIA FOR MAXIMUM PRODUCTION. WE FEEL THAT 20-25 POUNDS OF SEED PER ACRE WILL BE ADEQUATE TO GET A GOOD STAND.

FERTILIZER IS IMPORTANT IN GETTING A NEW SEEDING QUICKLY ESTABLISHED. IF THE FIELD HAS NEVER BEEN FERTILIZED, WE RECOMMEND APPLYING 400 POUNDS PER ACRE OF 16-20-0 FERTILIZER. IF THE PASTURE HAS BEEN FERTILIZED IN THE PAST, YOU WOULD ONLY NEED TO APPLY 300 POUNDS

PER ACRE OF 16-20-0. THERE ARE OTHER FERTILIZERS ON THE MARKET THAT ARE ADEQUATE AND WILL BE SUFFICIENT. FERTILIZER SHOULD BE APPLIED AT SEEDING TIME.

A NEW SEEDING SHOULDN'T BE GRAZED UNTIL THE NEW FORAGE PLANTS ARE 4-6 INCHES HIGH. THIS ALLOWS THE NEW PLANT TO DEVELOP A GOOD ROOT SYSTEM THAT CAN TOLERATE GRAZING. WHEN LIVESTOCK ARE GRAZED ON THE PASTURE BEFORE THE FORAGE GETS 4-6 INCHES HIGH, THE ANIMAL CAN PULL THE NEW PLANTS OUT BY THEIR ROOTS.

MORE INFORMATION ON SEEDING PASTURES CAN BE OBTAINED BY CALLING THE FARM ADVISORS' OFFICE IN EUREKA, 443-0896.

THIS IS GARY MARKEGARD, U.C. FARM ADVISOR, WISHING YOU A GOOD DAY.