

New Planting Methods For Clover To Be Seen At Field Days

LITTLE ROCK, ARK.

Fertilizer prices have shot up this year, especially nitrogen fertilizer. While adding clover to pastures and hay fields is a good option to supply needed nitrogen, successful clover establishment isn't guaranteed, according to Dr. John Jennings, extension professor/forages specialist for the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture.

Extension specialists and county agents have been studying new ways to establish clover started in pastures. Producers and others interested in the project can see the results of this work at two field days.

The first field day will be at 5 p.m., Thursday, October 16, at the Larry Wells farm near Drasco (Cleburne County). The second field day will be at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, October 23, at the Steve Swenson farm near Shirley (Van Buren County).

A good stand of clover can supply more than 100 pounds of nitrogen per acre, worth nearly \$100 at current fertilizer prices. Field studies were conducted in Cleburne and Van Buren

counties over the past two years comparing two methods of planting clover in grass pastures.

"Results look very promising," said Jennings. "We have seen excellent clover establishment in the first year, and the clover seems to be spreading in the fields."

Topics at the field day include results of the different seeding methods used, tips for setting up planting equipment, fencing and grazing for managing clover in pastures and determining how much nitrogen is provided by clover in pastures. The topics for both field days will be the same, and producers can attend one or both events.

To reach Larry Wells farm, take Hwy. 25N from Drasco, to Hwy. 5N. Go two miles north on Hwy 5 and watch for field day sign. To reach the Steve Swenson Farm, take Hwy. 16 from Clinton toward Shirley and turn north on Hwy. 110. Take Hwy. 110 about 5.5 miles and watch for the field day sign. Reservations aren't required, but are requested to help with planning materials and meals. For more information call your county extension office. Δ