



MILLE LACS SOIL SERVICE ASSN. MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2026

FSA DATES, DEADLINES, OR MESSAGES

JOKE OF THE MONTH

An old farmer had a wife who nagged him nonstop. From morning until night, she was always complaining and nagging about something. The only time he got relief was when he was out plowing with his old mule, so he made sure he could plow as much as possible. One day, he was out plowing when his wife brought him his lunch out to the field. He drove the mule into the shade, sat down on a stump, and began to eat. His wife then began nagging him again.

Nag, nag, nag, it just went on, and on. Then suddenly, the mule lashed out with both back legs. He caught hersmack in the back of the head, killing her straight away.

At the funeral a few days later, the minister noticed something unusual. Whenever a woman mourner talked to the farmer, he'd listen for a few minutes, and he'd nod his head in agreement. But when a male mourner would talk to the farmer, he'd listen and shake his head. This was consistent, so the minister decided to ask the farmer about it.

After the funeral, he spoke to the farmer and asked him why he agreed with the women and disagreed with the men. The farmer said, "Well, the women would say something about how nice my wife looked, so I nodded in agreement."

"And what about the men?" asked the minister.

The farmer replied, "They all wanted to know if the mule was for sale."

PRE-BUYING SEED

With increasing costs for fertilizer, there are also increased costs for many other items in the farming world. One of those items is seed; the rumor is that seed will be increasing next year, so if we can help secure some orders ahead of time, that will help keep your costs down.

For seed prices, contact us! (320) 294-5511

CONSTRUCTYION OF PH LEVELS

PH is made up mainly of calcium, magnesium, potassium, and phosphorus. If your pH looks good, it does not necessarily mean you have the correct calcium levels, and vice versa. I have seen several samples that show they have plenty of calcium, but their results call for more lime based on a low pH. If this is the case, you may need to look into your magnesium and potash levels.

NOT ALL CALCIUM IS THE SAME

Plants need the appropriate amount of calcium to grow the best crops, but not all lime is the same. Most AgLime tests are around 19% Ca and 11% Mg. Beet lime tests at around 31% Ca and .08% Mg. Why does this matter? What I've found in local soil samples (from Dairyland) is that base saturation tends to be above 76% Ca and below 18% Mg. There is a direct correlation: when you increase Ca by 1%, you decrease Mg by 1%, so by adding AgLime you may not be increasing the Ca as much as you need and also may not be lowering your Mg as much as you need. If you experience tighter soil that tends to hold water (clearly not in a drought stricken year), that is one sign of lower calcium or higher magnesium... or both.

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Mille Lacs Soil Service



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Thank You For Choosing Mille Lacs Soil Service!

CONSIDERING COVER CROPS, FALL SPRAYING, PASTURES, AND TARGETING SUSCEPTIBLE WEEDS

Boost your spring grazing with fall spraying! Fall is critical for grazing land, whether you are restoring balance or you want to set your grasses up for success. This is the season to repair pastures. In the fall, it is also important to try to repair the stand in cool season grasses. Why? Cool season grasses are growing new tillers and rebuilding root systems that will carry over into the next growing season. Fall is the time to re-evaluate! This means determining what needs to improve in your grazing program. Adding more rotational grazing is good to improve the health, vigor, and density of rangeland and pasture grasses. **Tip: As you rotate, leave more residue behind when moving livestock back.**

Fall can be viewed as a maintenance season for grasses. Removing the competition from undesirable weeds allows you to go into the next season with dense and highly competitive grass stands that will hold back weeds. Maintaining the competition is critical to long-term weed control. Healthy and competitive grass stands are essential to reducing weed populations. Weed control, along with carefully monitored grazing, will lessen the opportunity for weeds to take hold while thickening grass stands.

Fall application is equally as important as spring and summer applications. Fall weed control will stand out in the spring, even if it looks like nothing in the fall. Removing the troublesome weeds allows the forage grass to recover in the absence of competition. This results in higher grass yields in pasture and rangeland. The fall timing helps herbicides translocate, or reach the root efficiently, for successful control of weeds.

FALL APPLICATION BENEFITS

There's more to it than just spring grazing!

1. Most biennial and perennial weeds are active in the fall, while the susceptible plants are dormant.
2. Biennial weeds are easier to control when they are in the rosette stage in the fall.
3. Winter annuals are easy to control in the fall, helping preserve moisture and nutrients.

"Put your trust in us."

We've been in the business for over 55 years, we know what we're doing and we do it well. We still believe in a firm handshake, a hard day's work, and the love our customers have for the land. We're here for you from the first soil sample until harvest. If you want the best, done right & at a fair price - put your trust in us.

-Mille Lacs Soil Service Assn.