



Fall 2006

the HAYMAKER

PROGRESS IN ALFALFA RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT

W-L Alfalfa Takes Top Honors in Dairy Haylage and Commercial Baleage at the World's Forage Analysis Superbowl

We are proud to announce that **W-L Alfalfa** has won two Grand Champion awards, Dairy Haylage and Commercial Baleage, at the 2006 World's Forage Analysis Superbowl held in Madison, Wis.

Peter Juengel of Grand Blanc, Mich., won the title of Grand Champion, Dairy Haylage Division, with his entry of **WL 324**, which tested at 22.9% crude protein and **319 RFQ** (Relative Forage Quality)! Peter's success is especially noteworthy considering that he pulled the winning sample from fifth cutting on a five-year-old stand of **WL 324**.

Most winning samples submitted to the Superbowl are pulled from seeding year or first-year stands; it is a testament to the outstanding persistence and competitiveness of **WL 324** that the winning sample was weed-free, fine-stemmed, and able to deliver an RFQ score of over 300! Of course, Peter's management skills had a lot to do with the Superbowl win—he clear-seeds his alfalfa with pre-plant herbicide, keeps a close eye on fertility, aims for four harvests per year, and looks for at least six years of production from his alfalfa stands.

Congratulations to Peter Juengel for his first place finish in Dairy Haylage at the World's Forage Analysis Superbowl!

Terry Mergen of Bloomington, Wis., won Grand Champion, Commercial Baleage, with his entry that tested at 25.9% crude protein and 250 RFQ. The winning sample was pulled from the second cutting on a three-year-old stand of leafhopper-resistant **WL 346LH**. This is the second year in a row that a W-L entry has won Grand Champion, Commercial Baleage.

Congratulations to Terry Mergen and his wife, Jean, for their first place finish in Commercial Baleage at the 2006 World's Forage Analysis Superbowl!

Other W-L entries also placed among the finalists:

- Dairy Haylage: Grand Champion (**WL 324**); 12th (**WL 357HQ**); 16th (**WL 357HQ**)

- Dairy Hay: 3rd (**WL 355RR**); 9th (**WL 346LH**); 10th (**WL 357HQ**); 12th through 15th!! (**WL 357HQ**)
- Commercial Hay: 8th (**WL 319HQ**); 12th (**WL 357HQ**)
- Commercial Baleage: Grand Champion (**WL 346LH**); 2nd (**WL 355RR**); 6th (**WL 357HQ**); 10th (**WL 346LH**); 13th (**WL 355RR**)



Note the excellent first-year performance of Roundup Ready® **WL 355RR**—this variety scored second in Commercial Baleage and third in Dairy Hay, the best overall performance of any Roundup Ready alfalfa entered in this year's Superbowl.

Over the past nine years, **W-L Research** has presented cash awards to winning hay producers and dairy farmers who have won with W-L alfalfa varieties, and this year was no exception. W-L will be presenting a **\$1,000** award to both Peter Juengel and Terry Mergen for their W-L winning entries at this year's Superbowl. Our cash awards program will continue unchanged for the 2007 Superbowl contest.

We congratulate all of this year's winners and encourage even greater participation in the 2007 event. ■



Proud Grand Champion Winners, Jean and Terry Mergen of Bloomington, Wis.

W-L Introduces Two New Winterhardy Roundup Ready® Alfalfas With “Stacked” Traits for 2007 Planting

W-L announces the release of two new Roundup Ready alfalfas for planting in 2007: **WL 350RR/LH** and **WL 367RR/HQ**. These new products combine very high yield potential, superior forage quality, and long stand life with outstanding tolerance to Roundup® non-selective herbicide. In addition, these exciting new releases bring new “stacked” traits to the W-L Roundup Ready product lineup:

WL 350RR/LH

- The first Roundup Ready/sixth generation potato leafhopper-resistant stack on the market. **WL 350RR/LH** brings together the best characteristics of WL 355RR and W-L’s sixth-generation leafhopper-resistant genetics (WL 345LH, WL 347LH).
- Excellent tolerance to Roundup non-selective herbicide and superior resistance to potato leafhopper feeding.
- Very high yields (FD=4.0) under three-, four-, and five-cut harvest managements.
- Very winterhardy (WH=2.0); **WL 350RR/LH** delivers reliable production and long stand life.
- “Perfect” disease resistance index (DRI) of 30/30 and strong resistance to insects and nematodes.



**Grow the Feed,
Not the Weeds.™**

WL 367RR/HQ

- The first (and only) Roundup Ready/HQ stack on the market for 2007 planting, **WL 367RR/HQ** brings together the best characteristics of WL 355RR and WL 357HQ.
- Excellent tolerance to Roundup non-selective herbicide and “true HQ” forage quality.
- Very high-yielding (FD=4.7) and high in forage quality, **WL 367RR/HQ** produces big yields and superior feed value across a wide range of soil types.

- Well-adapted to four-, five-, and six-cut harvest programs; very fast recovery after cutting maximizes tonnage under intensive cutting schedules.
- Very winterhardy (WH=1.9), high yields and long stand life deliver superior profitability year after year.
- A “perfect” disease resistance index (DRI) of 30/30.

For the 2007 planting season, **WL 350RR/LH** and **WL 367RR/HQ** will be available in limited quantities. We encourage alfalfa producers to try some acres of the new W-L Roundup Ready alfalfas with “stacked” traits that best fit your local management practices. Let us know what you think of these exciting new products. When you seed W-L Roundup Ready alfalfa you are truly planting the best! ■



A clear example of the benefits of stacking 6th generation leafhopper resistance with the Roundup Ready® trait.

New! Gold Treatment Premium Seed Enhancement Available Exclusively on W-L Roundup Ready® Alfalfa

We are pleased to announce that the **Gold Treatment**, a new premium alfalfa seed treatment, is available for use on all W-L Roundup Ready alfalfas. The **Gold Treatment** includes five (5) key components:

- **Optimize® Gold with LCO Promoter Technology,™** a patented technology applied to the seed that promotes early season seedling vigor, enhanced root development, and improved stand establishment under adverse conditions. With Optimize Gold, the nodulation and nitrogen-fixation processes begin earlier, giving the young alfalfa seedling a boost and enhancing seeding-year yields and nutritional values.
- **Nitragin® Gold pre-inoculant**, with industry-leading rhizobial counts, ensures that new nodules on young seedlings contain only the best nitrogen-fixing strains of bacteria.
- **Micronutrient package**—the Gold Treatment includes a significant load of micronutrients (primarily molybdenum) to help ensure early nodulation and improved nitrogen fixation.

- **Apron XL® fungicide** protects young alfalfa seedlings from damping-off diseases (e.g. Pythium) that adversely affect successful stand establishment on poorly drained, wet soils.
- **Gypsum (calcium sulfate)** replaces calcium carbonate (lime) as the carrier (34% coating) for the seed enhancements listed above; gypsum is an excellent source of sulfur and also promotes successful seedling establishment on alkaline (pH>7.0) soils. The coating material surrounds each seed, providing for better rhizobia survival, improved seed-to-soil contact, and a higher ratio of seeds to plants. ■

Optimize®
GOLD
LCO Promoter Technology™ for Alfalfa