

AGRI-SERVICE MOLDOVA

January 2012 Newsletter

— BANQUET —

“saving the family, one farmer at a time.”

An evening banquet with delicious food will be held on March 30, 2012 at 6:30pm at Shady Maple Smorgasbord, 129 Toddy Drive, East Earl. The President of Agri-Service Moldova (in Moldova), Michael Caraivan, will be the guest speaker. Come hear his report how the work of ASM is

“saving the family, one farmer at a time.”

There is no charge to attend, several projects will be described for you to designate your contributions. For reservations call Abe Fisher at F & S Swine, 888-268-0391, extension 2, and leave a message, or call Walt Trumbauer at 717 733-2756



No-Till Progress

This was the second summer of experimental fields using the no-till planter. Fields were planted at three locations this year; Dancu, Iabloana and Vadul lui Isac. In the spring these farmers received detailed instructions in the specific requirements for a good result.

The harvest on some fields was as good as or better than the community average.

At other locations the results were less.

- At one field the soil was so hard the planter could not cut deeply enough and the stand was uneven.



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No-Till planting into cover crop

Education

A surprise during the administrative visit to Moldova in November was an invitation to conduct educational seminars in the town hall of Vadul lui Isac village, sponsored by the Mayor. We have been partnering with a farmer in this village for six years with good results. The mayor's wife reported to us that the people of the village have given up hope and it is well known that our recommendations have produced better results. She had attended a seminar held in the village several years ago.

This is a very welcome turn of events which has resulted from our commitment to long term assistance to build up trust. It has been one of our goals to see the activities of the demonstration plots spread to other farmers in the area. Four persons from here will join others from Moldova to conduct these seminars the first week of March.

A set of five brochures in very simple language have been prepared for use at the seminars and other places. They are being translated into the Moldovan language. The titles are:



No-Till corn in first weeks



Tuberous root weed

- Weed control was poor. There was a general complaint about the strength of the herbicides, not just by our farmers, but throughout the farming community. (It is likely that the importer weakened it to have more to sell.)
- Timing of spraying was not always prompt enough and weeds were already too tall for effective killing.
- At one location there was rain shortly after applying the herbicide, resulting in poor kill.
- At one location a grass-like weed with a tuberous root was not killed. See picture at right. We are still looking for answers on what to do for this problem next year.
- A booklet about No-Till prepared by Penn State College of Agriculture has been translated into Moldovan for distribution to interested farmers.

RAISING HEALTHY CATTLE

FEEDING

- Forage**
 - Cattle, sheep and goats have a complex, fibrous stomach which requires a high fiber diet. Most problems in the stomach break down the fibers and feed nutrients that can be absorbed by the animal and used for growth, meat and milk production and reproduction. These animals have their own way to help prepare the food for bacterial digestion.
 - Clean water is essential and needed at least twice a day. Fungus and bacteria, but corn husks, straw, hay, both fresh and stored, from feed processing.
 - Young goats and sheep are much higher in protein content than cattle and sheep. When protein is present in the feed the animals should be allowed to eat as much as they can eat or approach the feed.
 - Adults should be cut for hay in the early stages when so that the high fiber value is available to the animal. Adults should be fed hay that is high in fiber, as it will contain fibrous, organic matter and protein. It should be high in fiber and high in protein.
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- Grains**
 - Grains such as wheat and rice can be used as the main source of energy in the diet, but they must be properly prepared and stored to avoid mold and other problems that occur in the feed.
- Other Feeds**
 - Wheat bran, rice polish, and other feeds should be used in the diet. These feeds are high in protein and energy and can be used to supplement the diet.
 - Salt and mineral supplements should be used in the diet. These supplements are essential for the health and productivity of the animal.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

- Cattle should be kept in a clean, dry, well-ventilated area. The area should be free of mud and manure. The area should be free of parasites and other pests.
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RAISING HEALTHY CHICKENS

FEEDING

- Chickens should be fed a diet that is high in protein and energy. The diet should be free of mold and other contaminants.
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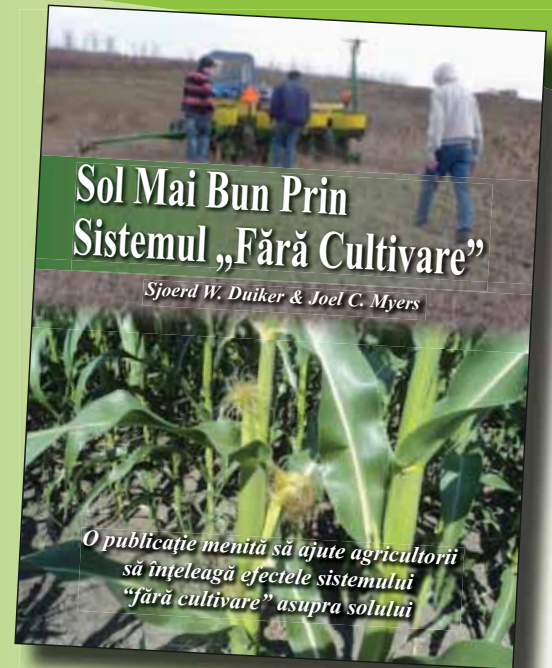
Activities in Moldova are administered by

AGRI-SERVICE MOLDOVA

Salcimilor Road, #9, Budesti-Chisinau 2044, Moldova

A non-profit public agricultural association.

*No-Till booklet
in Moldovan
language*



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