

# Alfalfa Response Trial - 2006

## PELLETIZED LIMESTONE TECHNOLOGY

**Table 3 - Alfalfa Response to Pelletized Lime**

Treatment		2006 Yield	Value of Hay \$120/ton	Crude Protein	ADF	RFV	8-Year Avg. Yield
<b>1</b>	2 Applications after 1st and 2nd cutting w/ <b>Pellet Lime</b> 200 lbs <b>Pellet Lime</b> 60 lbs P205 250 lbs K20	<b>6.44 tons</b>	<b>\$772.80</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>5.9 tons</b>
<b>2</b>	2 Applications after 1st and 2nd cutting P/K Control 60 lbs P205 250 lbs K20	4.78	\$573.60	15.4	32	95	4.7
<b>3</b>	Single Spring Application w/ <b>Pellet Lime</b> 400 lbs <b>Pellet Lime</b> 120 lbs P205 500 lbs K20	<b>6.3</b>	<b>\$756.00</b>	<b>17.4</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>5.5</b>
<b>4</b>	Single Spring Application Ag Lime 2 tons Ag Lime 120 lbs P205 500 lbs K20	4.89	\$586.80	15	30	113	4.6
<b>5</b>	Single Spring Application P/K Control 120 lbs P205 500 lbs K20	4.38	\$525.60	14	37	103	3.8
LSD (P=.05) C.V.		4.18 tons 6.74%	<b>Add'l Test Notes:</b> Ave. soil pH = 6.3; P/K soil levels "High"; 5 clippings recorded; No irrigation in 2006				

## Comments

Pellet Lime Treatments 1 & 3 out yielded all others including the 2-ton ag lime treatment. Test results indicate the best yielding alfalfa was realized with the two application method (Trmt 1) **with Pellet Lime**. Note the higher CP and RFV figures and the lower ADF values where Pellet Lime is used. In 8 years of testing, the Pellet Lime treatments have increased yields by

over 30% above the P/K Control. Sufficient plant available calcium is necessary to help prevent alfalfa leaf drop during cutting and conditioning. More leaf retention means more harvested alfalfa with a higher feed value. These results are statistically significant in favor of Pellet Lime.