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When asked what keys to success he would recommend to other wildlife enthusiasts and landowners for establishing food plots, Walter offered the following:

1. Take soil samples. This is the equivalent of a “cheat sheet” in school. Soil samples tell exactly what fertilizer is needed. Use the amounts needed, but don’t over apply – especially nitrogen.
2. Use the local Extension office and other experts as resources for information. Don’t be afraid to ask questions.
3. Do it right. Match the number acres devoted to food plots with your budget even if it means cutting acres.
4. Take time to prepare the soil properly prior to planting. For planting food plots on sandy soils, a $1200 culti-packer may be more valuable than a $60,000 tractor.
5. Follow seeding rates – do not skimp on seed, but don’t over-apply either. Know the size of your field/plot. Take time to calibrate the planter and to set it for the proper planting depth.
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Pennington Pointer

Wildlife experts say that the late summer/early fall period is a time of high nutritional demand for deer. Containing a mixture of soybeans, iron clay peas, buckwheat, sunflower and sorghum, Pennington’s Rackmaster Deluxe Spring/Summer Deer Mixture provides a nutrient-dense food source containing the high protein and energy deer need during the critical late summer and early autumn months. It is also ideal for late summer planting to provide a quickly established, rapidly growing food plot for early season bow hunting before frost.

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Using stockpiled fescue for late fall and early winter grazing is a proven method to reduce beef cattle wintering costs. To stockpile tall fescue, forage experts recommend that old seed heads and low quality summer growth be removed by clipping or close grazing in mid-August to early September. This stimulates new forage growth that is high in nutrient content. Depending on the area and weather conditions, 40-80 lbs/acre of nitrogen should be applied in late August or early September to optimize fall growth of the fescue.

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Pennington Expands Cover Crop Emphasis with New Mixtures and Added Customer Support

Following a successful inaugural fall 2015 sales season, Pennington is expanding its cover crop emphasis with new product seed mixes, optional delivery packaging and additional resource support. The Field Guard™ cover crop seed mix line-up has expanded to eight products with each formulated to match specific goals of the user whether they be to provide general ground cover, build fertility, improve soil structure, prevent erosion or a combination of all four. (See Table 1) As with all of Pennington’s forage, wildlife and lawn seed products, only the finest quality seed are used in the Field Guard™ cover crop product line. The various plant species used in the Field Guard™ line-up offer high germination percent, excellent plant vigor and proven performance. This ensures uniform growth and coverage across the field unlike some commodity products that often yield inconsistent cover and questionable weed content. A number of our pre-formulated and custom blended mixes contain Pennington’s university tested and farmer proven proprietary plant species that offer characteristics uniquely suited for cover crop use. (See Table 2)

Table 1

| Mix                  | Type             | N|P|K Source | Nutrient Stabilizer | Soil Conditioner | Weed Suppression | Grazing | Quick Cover | Erosion Control |
|----------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|----------|-------------|-----------------|
| Cover Star           | Grass/Legume     | ** ** ** ** ** ** | ** ** ** ** ** ** | ** ** ** ** ** ** | ** ** ** ** ** ** | ** ** ** ** ** ** | ** ** ** ** ** ** | ** ** ** ** ** ** | ** ** ** ** ** ** |
| Cover Star II        | Grass/Leuc. Brassica | ** ** ** ** ** ** | ** ** ** ** ** ** | ** ** ** ** ** ** | ** ** ** ** ** ** | ** ** ** ** ** ** | ** ** ** ** ** ** | ** ** ** ** ** ** | ** ** ** ** ** ** |
| Pan Buster           | Grass/Beardica   | ** ** ** ** ** ** | ** ** ** ** ** ** | ** ** ** ** ** ** | ** ** ** ** ** ** | ** ** ** ** ** ** | ** ** ** ** ** ** | ** ** ** ** ** ** | ** ** ** ** ** ** |
| Pan Buster II        | Grass/Beardica   | ** ** ** ** ** ** | ** ** ** ** ** ** | ** ** ** ** ** ** | ** ** ** ** ** ** | ** ** ** ** ** ** | ** ** ** ** ** ** | ** ** ** ** ** ** | ** ** ** ** ** ** |
| Yield Up             | Grass/Leuc.      | ** ** ** ** ** ** | ** ** ** ** ** ** | ** ** ** ** ** ** | ** ** ** ** ** ** | ** ** ** ** ** ** | ** ** ** ** ** ** | ** ** ** ** ** ** | ** ** ** ** ** ** |
| Cover Lover 3-Way    | Grass/Beardica/Logume | ** ** ** ** ** ** | ** ** ** ** ** ** | ** ** ** ** ** ** | ** ** ** ** ** ** | ** ** ** ** ** ** | ** ** ** ** ** ** | ** ** ** ** ** ** | ** ** ** ** ** ** |
| 5-Way All Purpose    | Grass/Beardica/Logume | ** ** ** ** ** ** | ** ** ** ** ** ** | ** ** ** ** ** ** | ** ** ** ** ** ** | ** ** ** ** ** ** | ** ** ** ** ** ** | ** ** ** ** ** ** | ** ** ** ** ** ** |
| 6-Way All Purpose    | Grass/Beardica/Logume | ** ** ** ** ** ** | ** ** ** ** ** ** | ** ** ** ** ** ** | ** ** ** ** ** ** | ** ** ** ** ** ** | ** ** ** ** ** ** | ** ** ** ** ** ** | ** ** ** ** ** ** |

Pennington Field Guard™ Cover Crop Mixture Ingredients

Pennington Pointer

Seeded bermudagrass varieties may be sold as hulled or unhulled seed or a combination of both. Hulled seed have part of the seed coat removed to promote faster germination. Unhulled seed have the seed coats intact. Some of the seed will germinate quickly, while others may lay dormant for a period of time until conditions are more suitable for germination. In general, if a good seedbed has been prepared and seeding takes place in the normal planting period, hulled seed are preferred. If planting into less than ideal conditions, or somewhat outside of the normal planting window, unhulled seed or a combination of hulled and unhulled seed is probably better. Pennington’s Tierra Verde seeded bermudagrass blend is specifically formulated to offer planting flexibility. Containing Mohawk and Sahara II improved forage bermudagrass varieties, this versatile blend contains 50% hulled and 50% unhulled seed, thus allowing a wide planting window from spring to early fall. With the combined traits of Mohawk and Sahara II, Tierra Verde provides a productive and durable bermudagrass blend for pastures, hayfields and landscape areas. It is also well suited for vegetative erosion control plantings.

Table 2

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(Continued on page 9.)
Pennington Expands Cover Crop Emphasis with New Mixtures and Added Customer Support

Following a successful inaugural fall 2015 sales season, Pennington is expanding its cover crop emphasis with new product seed mixes, optional delivery packaging and additional resource support. The Field Guard™ cover crop seed mix line-up has expanded to eight products with each formulated to match specific goals of the user whether they be to provide general ground cover, build fertility, improve soil structure, prevent erosion or a combination of all four. (See Table 1)

As with all of Pennington’s forage, wildlife and lawn seed products, only the finest quality seed are used in the Field Guard™ product line. The various plant species used in the Field Guard™ line-up offer high germination percent, excellent plant vigor and proven performance. This ensures uniform growth and coverage across the field unlike some commodity products that often yield inconsistent cover and questionable weed content. A number of our pre-formulated and custom blended mixes contain Pennington’s university tested and farmer proven proprietary plant species that offer characteristics uniquely suited for cover crop use. (See Table 2)

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Forage quality is important when considering hay for horses. Forage testing the hay to determine nutrient content is strongly advised. Particular attention should be given to the neutral detergent fiber content (NDF). NDF is composed of hemi-cellulose, cellulose and lignin and research has shown that there is a correlation between high NDF values in hay and colic in horses. This factor is more likely the source of digestive upset rather than a specific forage species. Overall hay quality in Georgia and a number of other states is often reported as a Relative Feed Quality (RFQ) number which takes into account both the total digestible nutrients (TDN) and dry matter intake (DMI). A RFQ value of 100-120 is sufficient for an idle horse or one in light work. Well fertilized bermudagrass hay harvested at the proper growth stage is capable of meeting this qualification.

The take home message is that many species of forage, including bermudagrass, can make acceptable hay for horses provided it is harvested at the proper stage of maturity and put up correctly. Higher quality forages are better for your horse not only because they provide better nutrition, but are important in maintaining the health of their digestive tract as well.

Veggie Review

By Lucy Ray, Morgan County, GA Extension Coordinator

Bermudagrass as an Equine Forage

Many species of forage, including bermudagrass, make acceptable hay for horses provided they are fertilized, harvested at the proper stage of maturity, baled and stored properly.

Pennington Field Guard™ Cover Crop Mixture Ingredients

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(Continued on page 4.)
Ask the Expert

Editors Note: The "Ask the Expert" column features answers to questions Pennington forage experts receive from clientele throughout the country. Pennington forage specialist Katie Harvey answers this newsletter’s featured questions about novel endophyte MaxQ tall fescue.

Will the novel endophyte in MaxQ tall fescue revert back to the old toxic endophyte over time?

No. The endophyte in MaxQ is a pure strain and can never become toxic. Fescue endophytes cannot be taken up from the soil by roots nor can they be transferred or hybridized by cross pollination.

Do I need to get rid of all the toxic fescue on my farm before planting MaxQ?

No. While it is not necessary to remove toxic fescue from the entire farm, it is strongly suggested to remove all toxic fescue from the area where MaxQ will be planted. The reason is two-fold. First, animals will not receive the full performance benefits of grazing the non-toxic MaxQ forage if a significant portion of their diet still consists of toxic fescue. Secondly, cattle will selectively graze the MaxQ over the toxic fescue resulting in overgrazing of the MaxQ and potentially shortening its stand life.

Will the toxic endophyte found in KY 31 tall fescue contaminate a neighboring field of MaxQ due to its close proximity?

No. The endophyte is contained within the plant and cannot be transmitted from plant to plant. It is only mobile through the seed. MaxQ pastures can become contaminated with toxic fescue varieties if seed are introduced back into the pasture through mechanical movement (feeding toxic hay, piles of seed on mower decks, etc.). Because of this, Pennington forage experts discourage the feeding of toxic fescue hay in MaxQ paddocks and recommend cleaning any toxic fescue seed from farm machinery prior to its use in MaxQ pastures.

Can MaxQ be overseeded into thinning fescue stands?

Yes, MaxQ can be overseeded into KY 31 pastures similar to orchardgrass or winter annual grasses. MaxQ can be a better alternative to these grasses because it will persist much longer. However, it should be noted that using MaxQ to thicken toxic fescue only serves to dilute and not eliminate fescue toxicity. As such, cattle performance and MaxQ stand life could be significantly reduced compared to results obtained with pure stands of MaxQ.

Pennington Expands Cover Crop Emphasis…CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Customized Blends Available

Are there soil types, production issues and/or environmental conditions unique to your farm requiring a specialized blend of cover crop plant species? Are certain cover crop mixtures only eligible for cost-share in your area? No problem! Pennington can custom blend virtually any requested cover crop seed mixture in 25 or 50 lb. bags or in 2,000 lb. totes. With blending facilities in AL, GA, MO, NC, SC, TN, VA, Field Guard™ mixes and custom blends will be available throughout the eastern U.S. from the Midwest to Maryland and southward from Florida to Texas. Simply contact the nearest Pennington dealer to obtain a price quote.

Enhanced Cover Crop Customer Support

Following a long Pennington tradition of providing outstanding product expertise and customer support, recent Clemson University graduate Jacob Barnes has joined the Pennington forage team as Business Development Manager for cover crops. With a major in Agricultural Education, a minor in Horticultural Science and a strong background in farming, Barnes will be working closely with university officials, various state and federal agricultural agencies and industry professionals to help keep dealers and farmers abreast of the latest research and cover crop related news and information.

For more information on Pennington’s Field Guard™ cover crop line and how it can be used to help protect one of the farm’s most valuable resources - the soil, visit PenningtonCoverCrops.com or call 1-844-SOIL 911.

Follow us at Pennington Seed Cover Crop Products
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Florida native Walter Gilbert has been hunting deer in the Low Country of South Carolina for some 30 years. As a teenager, he assisted with planting food plots but admitted, “We always seemed to struggle getting food plots established.” So when his family purchased their own plantation property just outside of Tillman, S.C. in 2013 and gave management responsibility to Walter, he vowed to “do it right.” “My father went to school with an individual who owned a nearby plantation,” related Walter. “The caretaker there introduced me to Colleton County Extension Agent, Marion Barnes.”

It turned out to be a rewarding introduction. “Marion has been a wonderful source of good information,” exclaimed Gilbert. From Barnes’ perspective, it has been an enjoyable experience working with the young wildlife enthusiast. “Walter is a ‘sponge for knowledge,” declares Barnes. “He is truly interested in doing things right. I have learned quite a bit myself through the trial and error experiences with Walter.”

“From the very outset, Marion told me that the goal for producing food plots should be just like that of commercial crop farms – high production,” states Walter. The knowledgeable county agent explained that successful and productive wildlife food plots started with good soil fertilization, correct land preparation, proper seeding rates and adequate fertilization. “Marion also told me that I needed to think like a scientist,” says Gilbert. “He strongly emphasized the importance of keeping good records and paying attention to details like accuracy in knowing all field sizes, weighing the amounts of seed and fertilizer used and scouting for disease, weeds and insects.” It also meant experimenting with different food plot plants, seeding rates and fertilization techniques to determine what worked best on his farm under his specific management. That led Walter to establish a small area dedicated to testing new food plot products that he had heard or read about prior to using them in the field.

It was Walter’s thirst for knowledge that led him to wildlife biologist Chuck Sykes and his online show, The Management Advantage. Then a personal contact by Walter led to one of The Management Advantage video clips being filmed at the Gilbert’s Pecan Hill Plantation. It was also through The Management Advantage that Walter learned about Pennington’s Durana perennial white clover. “Chuck made a statement that stuck with me,” recalls Gilbert. “He said don’t wipe out the dinner table.” He took that advice to heart and began adding high quality perennial forages like Durana and chicory to his food plot plantings. “There was lots of information about Durana on Chuck’s website, so I thought I would give it a try,” states Walter.

(continued on page 5)

South Carolina landowner Walter Gilbert (L) credits Clemson University Ext. Agent Marion Barnes (R) with being a valuable resource for wildlife food plot information and advice on his Pecan Hill Plantation. He and Barnes inspect clover roots for nematode damage.

Pennington Forage News

Fall 2016
1-800-285-SEED www.pennington.com

Attention to Detail Leads to Wildlife Food Plot Success for S.C. Landowner

Gilbert says one of the keys to successful food plot establishment on his sandy soils is using a culti-packer to smooth and firm the seed bed both before and after planting.

Gilbert is using Durana perennial white clover in open food plot areas and thinned pine plantation lanes to enhance wildlife nutrition and to help bridge the gap between cool and warm season annual plantings.

South Carolina landowner Walter Gilbert (L) credits Clemson University Ext. Agent Marion Barnes (R) with being a valuable resource for wildlife food plot information and advice on his Pecan Hill Plantation. He and Barnes inspect clover roots for nematode damage.

Doing things right by paying attention to details has led to highly productive food plots on Walter Gilbert’s Pecan Hill Plantation.Editor’s note: The plant in Walter’s left hand was taken from a planting of Pennington’s Rackmaster Trophy Radishes.