

# CAN IT GET ANY BETTER THAN THIS?

BY LEON LEAVITT

The excited voice on the phone said, "Leon, I know you've done stories about the benefits of adding micro-organisms to the soil, but you've got to open the book once again. There's more to it. You've got to see it to believe it."

"Yeah, sure," I thought as I dutifully took notes and put them safely away in the 'to-do' file for later reference. A couple of weeks later while cleaning my desktop, those notes surfaced - once again challenging my cynical nature to follow through. I thought, "How can it get any better than what I've reported on before? Have the methods of application really improved? Why not check it out?" I decided to find out.

**GRANDVIEW, ID** ~ Steve Collett, and dad Max, had a 40-acre field planted three years ago which never seemed to take off. After harvesting his first cutting (20 bales) this year, he applied Bio-N-Liven and Carbon combination, one time only.

He says, "It's amazing. The hay kicked in and started growing. In two weeks, we could see the difference - it had a healthy look about it and the yields were impressive. We got 37 bales on the 2nd cutting and 47 bales on the 3rd cutting. We invested \$1903 but it paid for itself, no doubt about that. This is the only significant increase I've ever seen since we began raising organic hay."



Steve & Max Collett - happy results

When pressed for the reason for these results, Steve responded, "It's simple. The microbes open up the soil and let the water penetrate down."

**ANTELOPE VALLEY, NV** ~ Allen Farr and brothers at Farr Farms have been involved with various types of microbial products for several years, keeping careful records on the results.

Earlier this year they rented a neighbor's 120-acre pivot and seeded it to hay and oats, followed by microbe application. For the previous five years, attempts to raise anything have been dismal due to the hardness of the alkaline soil. The landlord had to run water continuously to keep the meager crops from burning up. Since using microbial supplements, the soil holds water, even at the surface. Another benefit is that the fulvic acid in the product buffers the alkaline. Allen can now easily insert a soil probe into this once hard-surfaced non-productive field. Today there is a well established stand.



Allen inserting probe

Allen explained the process, "A plant takes in water to get nutrition - and if it lacks nutrition it pumps more water. If the nutrition is readily available, it doesn't have to pump as much water. There is less water usage because the plant is satisfied. With the microbial activity, the plants have been wet, have grown and are satisfied nutritionally without the extra water that we have applied before."

The next field was a four-year-old-stand that had large bare spots. It was disked six weeks earlier, spring-toothed and broadcast seeded, followed by watering. Conventional wisdom says NEVER to reseed due to autotoxicity. Allen brewed up a heavy-duty batch of microbes and the new stands were healthy as could be in this field. They were not

being killed at all. Allen says, "With reseeded, we have our six- and seven-year-old fields producing as well as the younger ones."

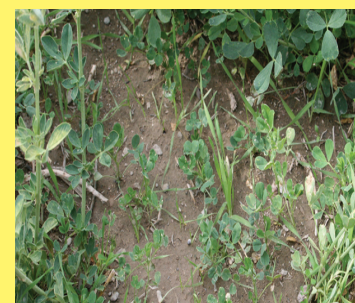
The third field was a classic example of the wondrous results of microbial and worm interaction. Farr planted oats in the spring which were harvested July 15th and seeded to alfalfa. We dug up several shovelfuls of earth, with worms everywhere. Farr states, "This is what we're after. If we can get the microbes and the earthworms working in the soil, they will produce all the food the plant needs. It's an accumulative process. That's what topsoil is. When we can achieve this and maintain this, we will have healthy soil and consequently healthy plants producing to their genetic capacity."

Another benefit is the improvement of the germination of the seed. He says, "The plant population is at least four times thicker than normal. Besides higher tonnage, a side benefit of thicker stands is fewer weeds. Also, water penetration improved enough to slow the pivots down to a 6-day revolution instead of 3 days, with no runoff."

So there it is, folks. Let the results speak for themselves. These guys are on to something that works. Check it out. You decide.



Rich humus soil results from the action of microbes and earthworms



Successful reseeded in old stand



"This is what we're after!"

**Farr Farms - Antelope Valley, NV (tons/ac)**

1996	4.2	2000	5.1	2004	6.0
1997	4.6	2001	5.5	2005	6.2
1998	4.3	2002	4.9	2006	6.2
1999	3.8	2003	5.8		



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