

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.

OROVADA, NV ~ When Dolan Miller's family recently moved to this ten-pivot hay ranch in Kings River Valley last year, they noticed one particular field, "D3", was in trouble. Dolan relates, "This field was new seeding last year, and when it came out of dormancy it was extremely stressed. Over half of it wanted to bloom and was a dark color. On the first cutting, we got 230 bales off of it (the adjoining pivots next to it yielded 354 and 407 bales). We weren't sure if we could bring it out of its stress condition or not, so we applied the Bio-N-Liven and Carbon mix after first cutting."



Dolan & Braun Miller in miracle field D3

what we've seen so far, the numbers are very impressive; the color and test of the hay is very good, and the soil is taking the water better. We were so impressed with the results that after the third cutting we started putting the program on four other pivots, to give us a jump-start for next year."

He has used several microbial-type products in the past at their previous location in Reese Valley, NV and feels they were working, but it was a long-term benefit (maybe not a production increase in the first year, even though it was building up the soil.) By getting the microbe numbers up first, by incubation, the results are more noticeable in a shorter time frame.

Dolan sums it up – "If I could bring that field out of the stress of that season, to go from the poorest of ten pivots, hands-down, to the best producing field on the farm ... this is incredible!"

The second cutting resulted in 228 bales (this was 28-day hay), while the adjoining pivots averaged 183 bales each. On the third and fourth cutting, all three fields were about even.

Dolan says, "We will cut back on our commercial fertilizer program. This (microbe application) is not a cure-all, but



Rob Peck shows difference between treated and untreated fields with limited water

CAREY, ID ~ When organic hay grower Rob Peck attended his re-certification class last winter, he heard of a new method for using micro-organisms. He had used bio products periodically over the years, but hadn't found a way to make them affordable – until this year. Impressed with the presentation, he decided to try this new method on sixty acres by beginning application starting at the end of May at the rate of 20 ounces/acre (recommended rate was 25-48 ounces/acre).

After three to four weeks, he noticed this field started to maintain a real light green color, like it had plenty of water. After harvesting the first cutting "all hell broke loose" to put it mildly. The main well went out and was down for 18 days! Rotational rationing of water for the whole farm began by watering for two days and shutting down for ten days before the next watering. (Normal watering cycle was four days on and three days off).

All the other fields were burning up but the micro-applied field remained green. This got Rob's attention real quick. There was something else, too – the water from sprinkling previously gathered in the wheel tracks and drained off the field into a creek; he could walk right up to the pivot. That didn't happen now on this field, as the soil was opening up and allowing the water to penetrate down. With all other factors entered in due to the rationed water crisis, he estimates his yield up by 30% because of the microbe applications.

Rob says, "If we hadn't put Bio-N-Liven (the microbe formula) on this field, it would have burnt up like the others. Next year we will treat the whole farm. When a farmer can save 20% on water costs and 40% reduction in fertilizer costs and at the same time have better soil texture, it's an economic "no-brainer."



Allen Farr
775.761.8542

Nathan Black
775.374.1423

Kyle Farr
775.761.1829

info@bsibugs.com
www.bsibugs.com