

New Publication about Triticale Forage for Growers and Livestock Producers

GILROY, CA -- If you grow forages or feed them to dairy or beef cattle, a new publication about triticale is a valuable guide for using this important new crop. The "Triticale Forage Reference Guide" provides introductory information about how to grow and use triticale forage, and includes web sites and addresses for obtaining more detailed information. The use of triticale in the U.S. and internationally has been increasing steadily in recent years. Triticale acreage in the U.S., most of which is for forage, is now approximately one million acres. Triticale is becoming the preferred cool-season annual pasture in many areas because of its superior combination of productivity, quality, and durability. As a silage and hay, triticale is a highly versatile and widely adapted crop that can meet a wide range of livestock needs.

The Triticale Forage Reference Guide describes the use of triticale for grazing, silage, and hay, and emphasizes the importance of choosing an appropriate variety from among the many different types and varieties of triticale. The Reference Guide addresses frequently asked questions about triticale, and outlines general production tips and suggestions for enhancing productivity for specific uses. The importance of harvest stage is highlighted as a key determinant of forage yield and quality. The Reference Guide points out that properly managed triticale has outstanding protein and digestibility, and is an excellent source of digestible fiber that is vital for ruminant health and productivity. Triticale typically produces significantly higher forage yield than other cereal grains. For example, in university research cited in the Reference Guide, triticale pasture production from triticale exceeded that from wheat by 23%, and a leading forage variety, TRICAL® 102, attained five tons of dry matter per acre harvested before heading and ten tons harvested after grain fill. The Reference Guide adds that yield can vary significantly among varieties and production conditions.

The "Triticale Forage Reference Guide" is available free from Resource Seeds, Inc., P.O. Box 1319, Gilroy, CA, 95021, and by writing to ask@resourceseeds.com. Information provided in Reference Guide is also available at www.tricaltrit.com.