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Don't Cut Alfalfa Too Late -- Cutting alfalfa late in the fall makes it susceptible to winter injury, warns L. J. Elling, research associate in agronomy at the University of Minnesota. Winter-hardy varieties often winter kill because plants are weakened by late cutting.

After alfalfa plants are cut, they draw on the food reserves in the roots to initiate growth of the next crop. The plants must grow several weeks before they restore the food reserves in the roots. When cut late in the fall, alfalfa plants do not have time to replenish these food reserves and the plants enter the winter in a weakened condition.

Although weakened plants may survive a mild winter, they will yield less than healthy plants the following year. In order to maintain good stands and high production, give alfalfa an opportunity to recover fully before winter, suggests Elling.

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Tile Must Be Right -- ACP payments will not be made this year for tile laying unless the tile meets the required specifications. A limited number of tests will be made free by the Department of Agricultural Engineering, University Farm, St. Paul, if five tile are submitted. The University recommends that tests be made of any tile to be laid.

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Hay Silage Good Feed -- Hay crop silage is a good livestock feed, and E. F. Ferrin, head of the University of Minnesota animal husbandry department, passes along the reminder that late summer is usually a good time to put in new seedings of legumes.

"Canning" the first cutting of alfalfa and clovers is a good way to beat the rainy weather in June, he points out. The high value of these crops for livestock feed is appreciated by most stockmen, but acreages have been held down because the first crop of hay is often spoiled. Modern machinery and the use of temporary silos have reduced the cost of silage from hay crops. The ration for cattle, sheep and even brood sows during the winter can be improved by feeding this kind of silage, says Ferrin.

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