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10-Ton Hybrid Alfalfa from Dairyland Seed Sets Yield Record in Penn State Forage Trials

WEST BEND, WIS. -- (Jan. 15, 2010) -- New alfalfa genetics and good growing conditions combined to produce record-breaking yields in the 2009 Penn State Forage Trials. HybriForce-2400 from Dairyland Seed topped the trial with a yield of 10.16 tons of dry matter over five cuttings of the 2009 growing season at Landisville Research Farm in Lancaster County, Penn. This marks the first time ever an alfalfa has yielded more than 10 tons in a single growing season of the Penn State Forage Trials.

Alfalfa yields in the past have remained relatively flat compared to corn, which sets new yield records almost annually, making the 10-ton milestone that much more important. Over time, the gain in corn was due to hybridization, and now is being pushed up by genetic improvement and protection by traits. HybriForce-2400 alfalfa was also developed through hybrid breeding, from Dairyland's exclusive patented msSunstra® Hybrid Alfalfa Technology.

According to Steve Wagner, Alfalfa Breeder with Dairyland Seed, hybrid breeding is helping to buck alfalfa's flat yield trend. Wagner says, "Traditional synthetic alfalfa breeding, the industry standard, has only produced a 0.34 percent annual genetic yield gain since 1980. Since the 2001 launch of the first hybrid alfalfa our hybrid alfalfa breeding program has effectively doubled the annual genetic yield gain."

The exciting part is where hybrid alfalfa breeding is headed -- HybriForce-2400 yield results may be just the beginning. Evaluations of Dairyland's experimental hybrid alfalfas suggest an even greater annual genetic yield gain may already be here. That could mean a significant yield increase in just 10 years.

Garrett Coleman the Northeast Sales Manager with Dairyland Seed remains focused on the HybriForce-2400. "HybriForce-2400 yield performance throughout the Northeast has been tremendous. Its fine stems and superior feed quality make it the best alfalfa on the market today," says Coleman. "If you contact your dealer today there is still supply available for spring planting."

About Dairyland Seed

Dairyland Seed began its seed business in 1907 and has built an established dealer network throughout the Upper Midwest, with international sales in more than 20 countries. The business experienced great success under the leadership of Orville and Marie Strachota, entering the field of plant breeding in 1977. Now part of Dow AgroSciences, the family leadership continues through son Tom and grandson T.J. Primary research locations are in Clinton, Wis.; Gibson City, Ill.; Otterbein, Ind.; Gilbert, Iowa, and Sloughouse, Calif., with plant breeding programs in hybrid alfalfa, hybrid corn and soybeans. Dairyland Seed is headquartered in West Bend, Wis. Learn more at www.dairylandseed.com.

About Dow AgroSciences

Dow AgroSciences LLC, based in Indianapolis, Ind., USA, is a top-tier agricultural company that combines the power of science and technology with the "Human Element" to constantly improve what is essential to human progress. Dow AgroSciences provides innovative technologies for crop protection, pest and vegetation management, seeds, traits, and agricultural biotechnology to serve the world's growing population. Global sales for Dow AgroSciences, a wholly owned subsidiary of The Dow Chemical Company, are \$4.5 billion. Learn more at www.dowagro.com.

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