

OUR EXPERIENCE WITH ROUNDUP READY ALFALFA

Clayton Gerald's
Gerald's Farms
Hart County Producer
Munfordville, KY

We raise approximately 500 acres of alfalfa with approximately 175 seeded to Roundup Ready varieties. We established our first field in 2006 and a second in 2007. Roundup Ready alfalfa was not available for additional seedings until 2011. We have seeded over 100 additional acres in 2011 and 2012.

In our operation the main advantage of Roundup-ready alfalfa is easier and cheaper weed control. The reason we need to control the weeds is for higher quality hay, longer stand life, and easier to harvest. We always sow alfalfa at a rate of 20 lbs per acre. The Roundup-ready seed will cost approximately \$150/acre, a top variety of conventional seed will cost about \$80/acre a difference of \$70/acre. We normally seed our alfalfa in the spring and spray it twice in the first year. The Roundup-ready alfalfa we spray twice with 24oz of Roundup each time with a cost of \$2.25 each with a total of \$4.50. The conventional alfalfa we spray with 16oz Select, 6oz Raptor, and 16oz 2, 4, DB for a cost of approximately \$60/application and a total of \$120 the first year. We have a savings of \$115 the first year with an increased seed cost of \$70 which leaves a net savings of \$45.

Some other advantages of Roundup-ready alfalfa is that we can lease fields with weed problems and we have more confidence in no-till alfalfa. Unless something unexpected changes, we plan to seed only Roundup Ready varieties in the future.