

## **2006 Forage Variety Testing Update**

### **Forage Variety Testing Continues**

The Manitoba Forage Council has been involved in the Manitoba Forage Cultivar Evaluation Program since 2001, and is currently involved in testing varieties in St. Pierre-Jolys, Arborg and Rosebank. This project is continuing with support from Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives, the Agri-Food Research and Development Initiative and the Manitoba Forage Seed Association. The Manitoba Forage Evaluation Committee, (a combination of producers, researchers, industry and government representatives), evaluate the registered and unregistered varieties that have been approved by the Western Canadian Forage Testing System. If varieties out perform the check variety, they are recommended to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), the federal licensing body for varietal registration.

Consistent protocol is used for evaluating varieties in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. Dry matter yields are measured under a three-cut system over three production years, and test procedures have been developed to evaluate persistence and winter-hardiness. This is the second year for testing the winter hardiness of 36 registered alfalfa varieties and the yield and quality of 10 barley varieties and 6 oat varieties. Data from all tests is made available in the Manitoba Seed Guide publication that is released annually.