



April 14, 2004

### **Production Report**

What a difference a month makes. The City of Portland reported that during the month of March, rainfall totals were down by 19". Much of the spring fertilizer and chemical applications are already applied along with a number of new plantings. Over the Easter weekend record temperatures were recorded with highs in the low 80's. Growers were quickly setting up irrigation since fields were rapidly drying. This morning, the radio was discussing the possibility of water shortages and restrictions that will probably take affect this summer since our snow pack melted the past month. It rained nicely last night and this morning with more rain in the forecast for the next week. We could really use a couple of inches to maintain adequate top moisture levels going into seed set.

### **Fall Ryegrass Pricing**

The PRBA met last week and increased the pricing on the first half of the 2004 crop by \$8/cwt. The original price was agreed to last year, but market and weather conditions have changed and the group felt it was time to re-evaluate. In addition, it was agreed that the next 25% will be priced in early June with the final 25% being priced by August 15<sup>th</sup>. This is a significant change since market prices were finalized by July 1<sup>st</sup> in the past. We will be watching the weather the next month or so to see how it will affect the crop and the ryegrass pricing.

### **Market**

The spring season just keeps on going.

Perennial Ryegrass: Prices remain strong for both proprietary and commons. However, prices have settled down as re-sale loads are available at the right price.

Annual Ryegrass: Markets remain firm for both prompt and for new crop.

Fine Fescue: Much of the carryover chewings and hard fescue has been moved out of Oregon. Oregon grown creeping red fescue has also moved well this spring. However, Canadian creeping has remained flat the last few weeks even though they have been moving significant quantities overseas. Proprietary pricing has been firming up as supplies are brought into line with demand.

Kentucky Bluegrass: Excellent winter moisture have fields looking very good. However, well managed acres will keep the prices stable.

Tall Fescue: Most companies are reporting excellent movement of tall fescue this spring. Many old and/or challenged lots have finally been sold. Market prices are slightly increasing for prompt. New crop Fawn has traded at \$38/cwt.

Orchardgrass: No changes to the market at this time.

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