

Cow's Preference Is Important Says Professor

A la carte or come and get it? Which will it be when feeding sudan grass to your dairy cows? Research findings support the come and get it system, says Dr. George Haenlein of the University of Delaware.

In studies conducted at the university it has been proven that cows on pasture consume more forage in a day than those fed green

chop. Also, they select the more digestible parts of the plant.

The average digestible intake of a grazing cow is more than five pounds a day greater than one which is hand fed. This additional consumption will provide enough nutrients to supply 16 more pounds of four per cent milk daily, Haenlein says.

When you add to this the cost of harvesting green chop it makes the old fashioned system of letting the cow be her own chopper look pretty good, despite some waste when the cows tramp around the field.

With green chopping, zero grazing or bunk feeding which are all names for the same process you feed the cow the nutritious and fibrous portion of the plant indiscriminately. The cow is filled with a lot of ballast that will not produce enough milk. It is true that cows generally relish green chop

But, it is what fills the bucket that counts. With green chop you have to supplement more grain to make up the difference in forage quality than with grazing. The cows have proven in our studies with sudan grass over a period of six years, that they understand how to select the more nutritious plant parts. The part that is being wasted is of little or no value from a nutrition and production standpoint.

It will take some additional feed intake to support the grazing cows. Their maintenance requirements are slightly higher than those that stay in the barnyard and are fed cut forage.

It has been shown in other experiments, that the difference in selective consumption more than makes up for the work required by the cow to go and get it.

It's hard to beat nature's way of harvesting forage crops.

Pity the grouch — he's a guy who has sized himself up and got sore about it.

COMPLETE PICTURE

When a flower arrangement is to share a mantel, table, or other surface with candlesticks, Books, or figurines consider these objects a number.

part of the complete picture advises Sanna Black, Pennsylvania State extension home management specialist. If flowers are to be the main interest accessories must be few.

Trefoil Needs Plenty Of Sun

Birdsfoot trefoil, one of the farmer's best forage crops, is sensitive to shading by companion crops and weeds, studies at the Penn State University indicate.

Tests by Guy W. McKee, research agronomist, show that birdsfoot trefoil needs 25 per cent of full daylight to survive and 50 per cent to produce nodules. Dr. McKee says this partially explains why many plantings of trefoil start slowly and often are thin or fail.

Light under a dense growth of weeds and companion crop may be no more than 5 per cent of full daylight, Dr. McKee explains.

The trefoils were compared with Pennscoot red clover and Vernal alfalfa. In all cases the trefoils were reduced more by shading than were the clover and alfalfa. Pennscoot and Vernal grew and produced functional nodules with half the amount of light needed by the trefoil.

Under a canopy of Clinton oats, leaf areas of birdsfoot trefoil were reduced by half. Under the same oat canopy, seedlings of Pennscoot red clover and Vernal alfalfa had as great a leaf area per plant as seedlings grown in the open.

Shading and competition from a companion crop also depress the top and height growth of trefoil seedlings, the studies indicate.

Countians Win At Hay Show

Two Lancaster county farmers, Mahlon H. Shenk, of Holtwood R2, and Galen W. Crouse, Stevens R1, won the championships at the Southeast Penna. Hay Show, Aug. 24 at Hershey, both with later (than first) cuttings of alfalfa. Another county farmer, John S. Shenk II, Willow Street R1, won a blue ribbon in the first cutting of mixed hay class.

Mahlon Shenk won in the field cured division and took the grand championship. Crouse topped the heat cured division and was runner up to Shenk for top show honors. John Shenk also took a fifth placing in mixed hay with over half grass.

Farmers from eleven counties — Chester, Montgomery, Franklin, Berks, Adams, Cumberland, Schuylkill, Dauphin, Lebanon, Lancaster and York — entered 173 samples, 128 of them field cured, 45 heat treated.

W. H. Hosterman, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Washington, D.C., was the judge. First of a series of four the show was conducted by Penn State University extension service as part of its quality forage program. Cooperating were more than a score of supporting organizations.

All first, second and third place winners will be entitled to free chemical feed analysis of hay exhibited. The analyses are being made by the University and the Pennsylvania Dept. of Agriculture.

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