

Sorghum-Sudan Cattle Forage Use Increases

Use of sorghum-sudan hybrids for cattle feed has increased 20-fold in Pennsylvania during the past five years, according to agronomists at Penn State University. John E. Baylor and John B. Washko of the College of Agriculture suggest using Piper sudan-grass for pasture and the sorghum-sudan hybrids for green chop or silage.

Dr. Washko, research agronomist, compared a sor-

ghum-sudan hybrid and a true sudangrass hybrid with Piper sudangrass under both a pasture and silage system of management. All three varieties yielded more total dry matter as silage than as hay or pasture. The yield increase was 61 percent for silage from the sorghum-sudan hybrids and 32 percent increase for the sudangrass hybrid. For Piper sudangrass, the yield increase of silage over hay or pasture was only 12 percent.

Yield differences among the three were small under the pasture or hay system with all three producing about 3½ tons of dry matter per acre.

Protein content of the forage was also similar for all three varieties. At most locations all varieties were harvested three times annually for pasture or hay.

In other studies several varieties were cut at different stubble heights to compare yields per acre and rate of recovery after cutting. In general, total dry matter yields for all varieties were greater when cut at a stubble height of two inches as compared to the four or six-inch stubble height. On the other hand, speed of recovery was more rapid with the higher stubble height cut.

Both sudangrass and the hybrids can be used for hay, they add, but are difficult to cure. Planting at heavier than normal seeding rates will cut down on stem size and may make curing less of a problem. Conditioning the crop with a crusher or crumpler at cutting and again the following day will also help to speed up drying.

While the hybrids outyield sudangrass for silage, they are no more productive than corn and produce a silage considerably lower in feed value than good corn silage, the agronomists state.

Meats Judging

(Continued from Page 1)

Godfrey, Dallastown. Freeman Stoltzfus of Grassland Chapter, with 377.4 points, rounded out the quartet of area boys who will compete in the state contest during FFA Week at Penn State University.

Other placings: 5th and 6th—Kenneth Leaman and Irwin Widders, both of Lampeter-Strasburg High School; 7—Kenneth Fritz and Dean Ressler (tied), both from Warwick HS; 8—another tie between Warren Buch, Warwick, and Robert Fisher, Garden Spot HS.

Other schools represented included Ephrata, Penn Manor, and Elizabethtown.

Lancaster County Has Lowest Bedding Plant Price In S.E. Pa.

A recent survey of bedding plant prices among growers in southeastern Pennsylvania showed that Lancaster County averaged as much as 18.7 cents per dozen lower than the highest-priced county.

In the five-county area, prices to florists ranged from 68.3 cents in Lancaster to 87 cents in Lehigh, according to Penn State marketing specialist Alvi O. Voight.

Some of the explanations offered for this situation are surplus production; many and relatively smaller growers choosing to sell locally; growers' failure to locate better markets; lack of marketing knowledge, which results in florists paying 5 to 20 cents more per pack in nearby Greater Philadelphia area; growers' satisfaction with lower prices.

Voight points out that if Lancaster County has similar quality and sufficient volume, the price difference is such that someone could benefit by purchasing Lancaster's production at wholesale, market it within 50 miles, and make a tidy profit.

If that happened, the resulting shortage of supply in Lancaster should result in price strengthening there, Voight speculated. Unless some very unusual consumer price resistance developed, he added.

There are many alternatives to the "low-price Lancaster situation," Voight said, but the solution depends upon each grower-marketer in his own market environment.

Generally, bedding plant prices are at least as high as in past years, and the overall market situation looks strong with prices steady to higher in spite of large volume advances, Voight predicted.

Industries Join In Air Pollution Research Plan

The bituminous coal and electric utility industries have announced plans for a broad program of air pollution research that may involve more than \$4.3 million in the next five years.

The expanded program, which has been under consideration for a number of months, will emphasize control of sulfur oxides produced at coal-burning electric generating stations. Primary aims of the program will be:

1—To determine the maximum concentration of sulfur oxides in the air at ground level that is compatible with good public health.

2—To find economically feasible means of controlling sulfur oxide emission from power plants, while avoiding excessive costs for electric service to the consumer.

The National Coal Association, representing the bituminous coal industry, and the Electric Research Council, representing the total electric utility industry and supported by Edison Electric Institute, said the new program will sharply accelerate efforts of the two industries in contributing to cleaner air. Public health authorities agree that air pollution comes from many sources — motor vehicle exhausts, open dump burning, manufacturing and industrial processing, incineration, road construction — in addition to fuel burning.

Turkey Promotion And Information Programs

Several conclusions were drawn at a recent meeting of the National Turkey Federation-Poultry and Egg National Board Coordinating meeting.

1—Anticipated demand for turkey will continue through the summer, due particularly to a shorter supply of red meat.

2—In spite of an apparent record-breaking turkey crop this year the industry is not going to go broke.

3—The supply of turkeys indicates that July and August will be the best period to promote turkey.

It was also agreed that turkey as a feature of outdoor living will be emphasized in special informational programs to be held for food communicators in New York and Chicago.

Plans were made to work toward better display cases to set off turkey to best advantage in the stores.

Final Date Set For CAP Signup

May 13 is the final date to sign up for the new Cropland Adjustment Program, James W. White announced Wednesday.

White, chairman of the Pennsylvania Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee, reported that 2,040 farm operators have applied for agreements under CAP, and 224 agreements have been signed. Cropland signed up totals of about 14,745 acres, he said.

White said there will be no extension of the final date for registering for the CAP.

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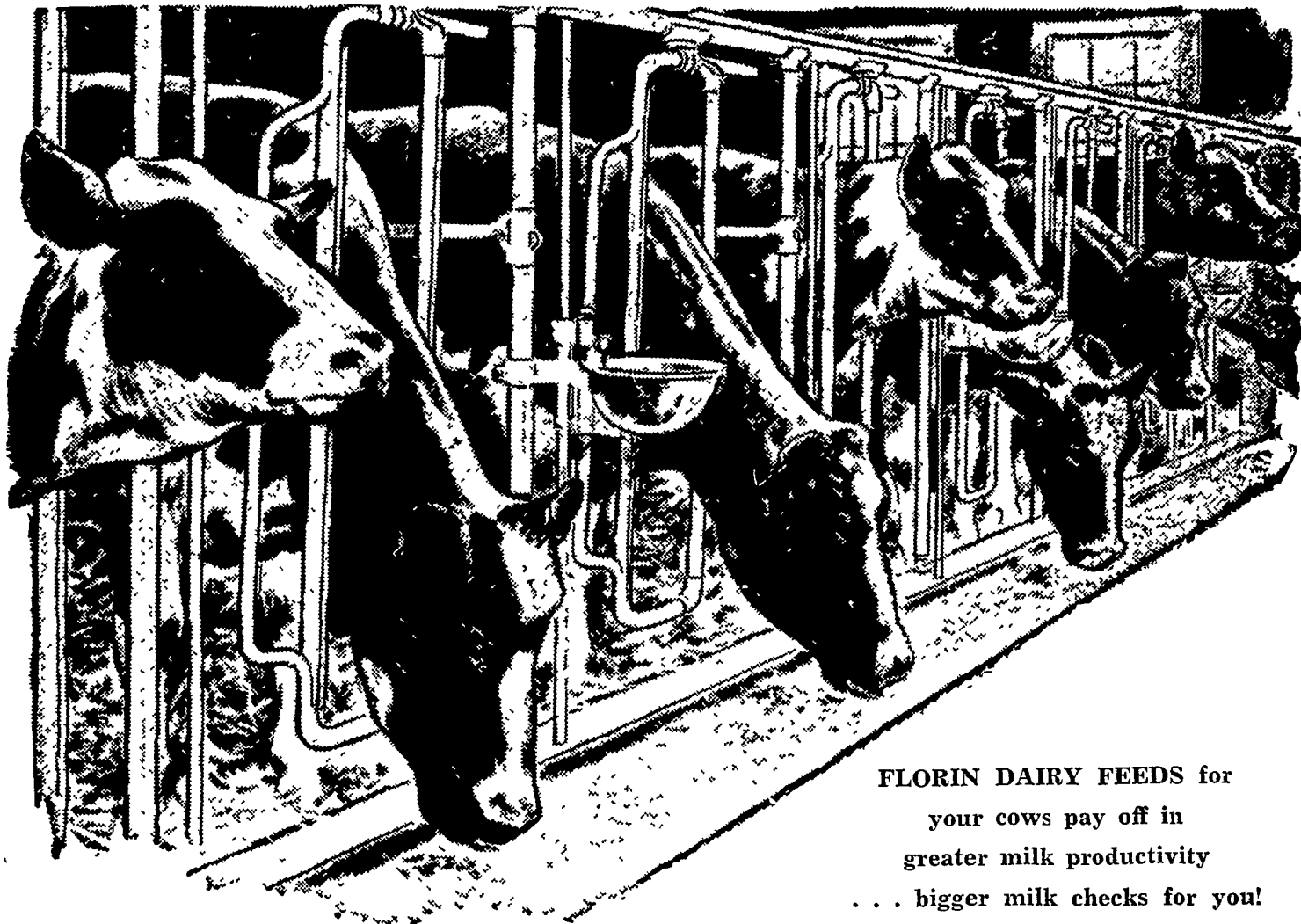
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