

Birdsfoot, Grass Mixture Is Tops In Forage Study

Pastures with highest yields for beef cattle in Pennsylvania have been determined in five years of studies by crop and animal scientists at The Pennsylvania State University.

The highest yielding pastures were those seeded to birdsfoot

trefoil and combined with any one of the following grasses—orchardgrass, smooth brome, orchardgrass, smooth brome, or reed canarygrass. This combination provided 151 grazing days per season and gave yield ranging from 2.8 to 3.9 tons per acre per year.

Orchardgrass used alone furnished 146 grazing days per acre each season and yielded from 2.6 to 4.0 tons per acre. Grazing days per season dropped to 111 with Kentucky bluegrass pastures and total yields ranged from 2.4 to 3 tons of dry matter per acre.

The results of the five-year studies were announced recently by Dr. John B. Washko, professor of agronomy at Penn State, during the 4th Forage Institute held at Coshocton, Ohio. Cooperating on the research were Dr. Lowell L. Wilson, Professor of animal science, and managers of the 210 Angus-Holstein cow and calf herd at the State Correctional Institution at Rockview.

Dr. Washko indicates similar results could be obtained in other Northeastern states. The findings will be featured again on March 22 during Livestock Day at Penn State.

With the demand for beef continuing to rise, the study

proved the value of using marginal land, unsuited for row crops, to produce forage for livestock. The 210 crossbred cows and calves were pastured on 325 acres of land, mostly unsuited for row crops.

The crossbred cows and calves were divided into five groups ranging from 40 to 50 head of cattle in each group. They were grazed rotationally from the first week in May until November. From the time of lush pasture growth in spring until July 1, each cow and calf was provided 1 1/2 acres of grazing land. During the rest of the season, each cow and calf was given 1 2-3 acres of pasture. From 3 to 5 pastures were assigned to each of the five groups.

Lime and fertilizer were applied either in the fall or spring according to soil tests. Nitrogen was applied in two applications of 50 pounds each, the first in early spring and the second in July. Forage yields and samples for chemical analysis were taken on each pasture prior to grazing. The pastures were mowed after each grazing to remove unpalatable growth and weeds.

Crude protein and total digestible nutrient content of first grazed forage tended to be lower than for second, third, and fourth grazings. Crude protein content of pasturage containing birdsfoot trefoil was higher than that of grass pasturage alone.

During the lush growth period in late spring, surplus pasture was mowed and removed as hay in two of the five years for the fall-growing species.

Red Rose Beef Club Has Panel Discussion

The monthly meeting of the Lancaster County Red Rose Baby Beef and Lamb Club was held Wednesday evening at the Farm and Home Center.

The business meeting was conducted by the president, Ed Hess.

The program was a panel discussion on Feeding and Showing. Panel members were: Earl Dehmey, 4-H beef leader from Dauphin County; Glenn Glenn Flickinger, Animal Science enior at Delaware Valley College; Bill Holloway, 4-H beef leader from Chester County. Members of the Club and Max Smith a ag agent and Club leader, asked questions of the panel.

The next meeting will be May 2 at the Farm and Home Center.

Feb. Order 4 Milk Price Up

The February uniform price for base milk in federal order 4 increased 10 c from the previous month, while excess milk showed an increase of 1c, according to a report received this week from Andrew Marvin, fieldman for Inter-state Milk Producers Coop.

In comparison to February levels one year ago base milk was up 49c and excess up 46c.

The weighted average price for the market was \$7.28, an increase, of 49c above February 1972.

A total of 354 million pounds of producer milk was pooled in February of which 67.41 per cent was sold as Class I, showing an increase of .93 per cent of deliveries made in January, and 2.09 per cent increase from Feb. a

year ago. 8125 Order No. 4 producers provided 12.6 million pounds per day to dealers during February, averaging 1555 pounds per day per farm. Total value of producer milk was set at \$25,851,556.16 for the month.

| | |
|------------------------|--------|
| Base Milk Price | \$7.54 |
| Excess price | \$5.44 |
| Butterfat differential | .078+ |

Andrew A. Marvin, Fieldman
Interstate Milk Producers Coop.
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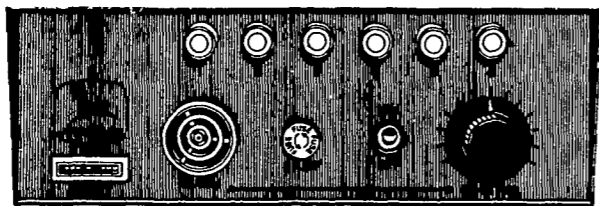
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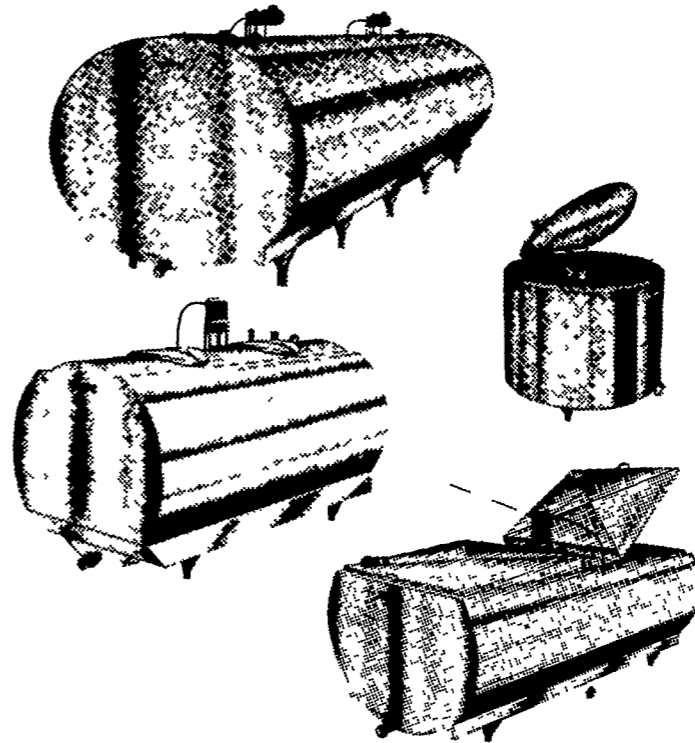
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