

Alfalfa-Grass Combine For Best Yields

With the increasing popularity of horses for recreation, many farmers want to know what forages produce the best yields and most nutritious hay for horses. The answer is alfalfa-grass mixtures on fertile, well-drained soils, according to studies of 25 forage mixtures by agronomists and animal scientists at The Pennsylvania State University. The most productive hay

mixtures combined alfalfa with bluegrass, smooth brome, and timothy. Alfalfa-grass mixtures averaged 5.1 tons per acre in tests at University Park and 3.3 tons per acre at the Southwestern Field Research Laboratory at Rector, Westmoreland County. As might be expected, the soil at University Park was more fertile and better drained than at Rector.

Carrying out the studies were J. B. Washko, professor of agronomy; W. G. Downs, assistant professor of agronomy, and T. L. Merritt, professor of animal science. Their findings are reported in the spring issue of "Science in Agriculture," the quarterly magazine of the Agricultural Experiment Station at Penn State.

They say the "taboo" against feeding horses legume hay, especially alfalfa, has disappeared in light of research information and feeding experience. In the past, timothy was preferred. There was common belief the legume hay would cause digestive disorders and affect a horse's kidneys due to high protein content in legumes.

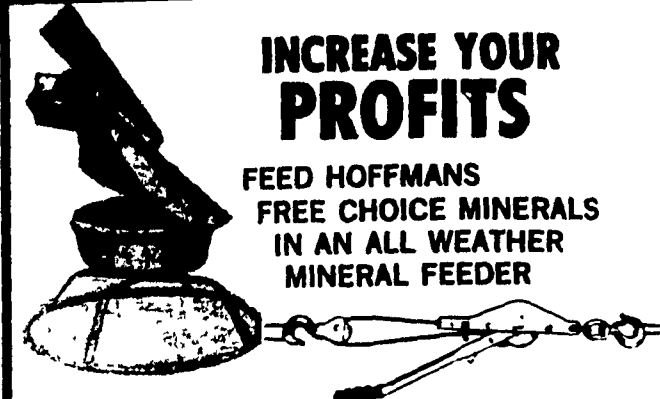
Total digestible nutrient content of all hays ranged from 68 to 69 per cent with only minor differences among species and mix-

tures. Annual feed consumption of hay for horses in Pennsylvania averages 2 tons per head, and 3/4 tons of grain concentrates, as listed in the horse and pony survey publication of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, CRS-43.

After alfalfa-grass mixtures, the next most productive mixtures combined Viking birdsfoot trefoil with grasses. These averaged 4.5 tons per acre at University Park and 3.1 tons per acre at Rector.

Best yields from grasses alone at University Park came with a mixture of orchardgrass, smooth brome, and timothy. This mixture produced 4.7 of hay per acre. The highest yielding grass mixture at Rector included bluegrass, smooth brome, and timothy which yielded 3.4 tons per acre.

The alfalfa mixtures contained more protein than the other legume-grass mixtures. Alfalfa mixtures averaged from 2 per cent higher than Viking trefoil mixtures to 4 per cent higher than nitrogen fertilized grass hays.



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Chester County Dairy Princess Rules Set

Plans are currently being made for a Chester County Dairy Princess Contest. The contest will be held in June. The exact date and location will be announced by May 15. All eligible girls are invited to compete in the pageant.

To be eligible for competition for the title of Chester County Dairy Princess, girls must qualify according to the following rules:

1. Live in Chester County.
2. Be a daughter of a dairy farmer, a dairy farm manager, herdsman, or dairy farm owner during the current year, or the contestant be the owner of more than one dairy animal prior to May 1, 1974.

3. Have completed her Junior year of High School and will not have reached her 21st birthday by Sep-

tember 1 of the year of the contest.

4. She must be single and never married.

5. Have parent's or guardian's consent.

6. Former local winners are not eligible.

Contest entry forms may be obtained from: Mrs. Jean Yarnall, 932-2730, Miss Mildred Seeds, 269-0759, Mrs. Betty Henley, 593-5550, Mrs. Jane Pepple, 932-3975, Mr. Lewis Springer, 717-768-8197, Mrs. Lou Brown, 932-8871, Mrs. Alice Raught, 827-7433, Mr. Glenn A. Shirk, 696-3500, Associate County Agricultural Agent.

The completed entry forms are to be returned to: Mrs. Betty Henley, RDI, Cochranville, Pa. 19330 two weeks before contest date.



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