

Something to Crow About  
Poultry is now the leading farm commodity in Georgia, despite its nickname as "The Peach State."

Know Where the Activities Will Be?  
Read the Farm Women Calendar.

Liaison Officers  
Government liaison officers are people who talk and listen well but can't make a definite statement

## The 'back 40' gaining usefulness

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. - Pennsylvania has about 1,729,000 acres of hill pastures that, unsuited for other purposes, can produce sufficient forage to support beef cow and calf operations and to finish steers for slaughter, a crop scientist at Penn State University declared recently.

Dr. John B. Washko, agronomist at Penn State, addressed some 250 scientists taking part in the first International Hill Land Symposium held in early October at West Virginia State University.

Under crossbred dairy-beef cow and calf grazing, central Pennsylvania hill pastures produced from 2.9 to 3.2 tons per acre of dry matter and furnished from 114 to 149 days of grazing per animal unit per acre. The crossbred Holstein-Angus calves gained an average of 193 pounds per acre per year over a three-year grazing period. The cows gained an average of 60 pounds per acre on the same land.

In experiments over a four year period, Hereford steer weight gains averaged from 305 to 363 pounds per acre over a grazing season of 176 to 209 days. Cattle weight gains on nitrogen-fertilized grass and legume-grass mixtures, while slightly favoring the legume-grasses, did not differ greatly.

In the steer grazing experiments, beef production per acre was compared with yearling Hereford steers grazing nitrogen-fertilized grass alone, and legume-grass with and without grain supplementation. Grain supplementation included

five pounds of ground grain, 85 per cent corn, and 15 per cent oats - plus 1.1 pound of 36 per cent protein concentrate per animal daily.

"Tall grasses such as orchardgrass and birdsfoot trefoil - in mixtures with orchardgrass, smooth brome grass, or Reed canarygrass - produced more pasture than Kentucky bluegrass," Washko said.

"Nitrogen-fertilized orchardgrass furnished 29 more grazing days per acre than Kentucky bluegrass," he added, "while birdsfoot trefoil furnished 36 more grazing days per acre in mixtures with orchardgrass, smooth brome grass, and Reed canarygrass."

Washko and associates found that the "carrying capacity" of hilly land pastures used for crossbred beef cattle herds of cows and calves varied with level of management. Under a high fertility level and intensive management, hill pastures furnished 203 cow days of grazing. A medium level of fertilization and management provided 167 cow days of grazing per season. When hill pastures were grazed without being limed, fertilized, or clipped, they furnished only 87 days of grazing.

During the winter, the cow and calf herds were allowed to "pick" on pasture forage left over from summer and were fed primarily hay in large round bales. A high level of summer fertilization and management again proved superior - providing 213 feeding days per acre compared with 115 feeding days at the lowest level of pasture management.

## from HISTORY'S SCRAPBOOK DATES AND EVENTS FROM YESTERYEARS

December 5, 1933-National Prohibition comes to an end after 13 years.

December 6, 1847-Abraham Lincoln takes his seat in the 30th Congress as a member of the Illinois delegation in the House of Representatives.

December 7, 1737-Delaware becomes the first state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

December 8, 1776-George Washington crosses the Delaware River, near Trenton, New Jersey, and lands on Pennsylvania soil.

December 9, 1941-China declares war against Japan, Germany, and Italy (World War II).



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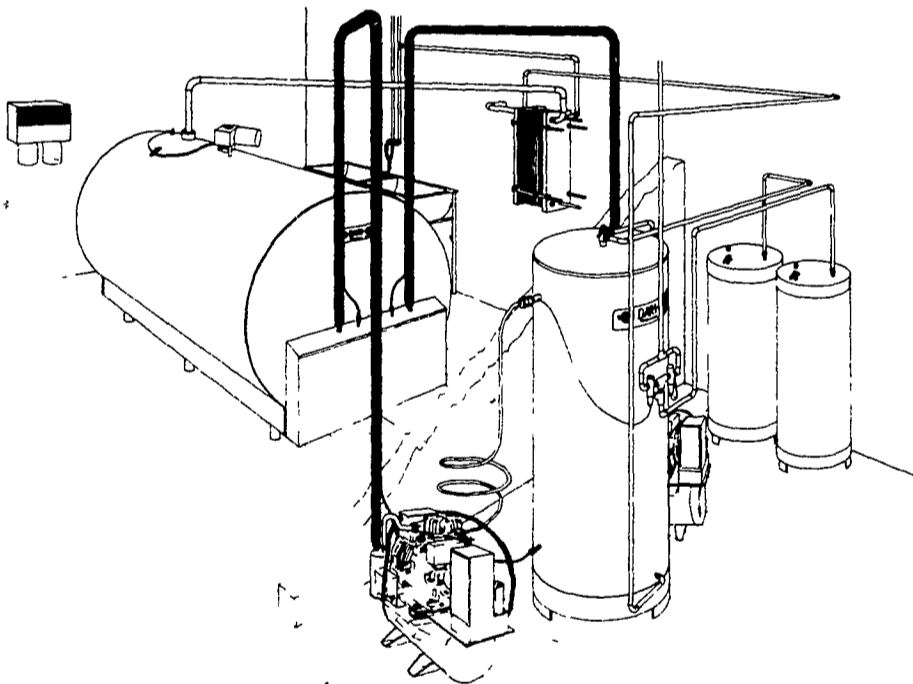
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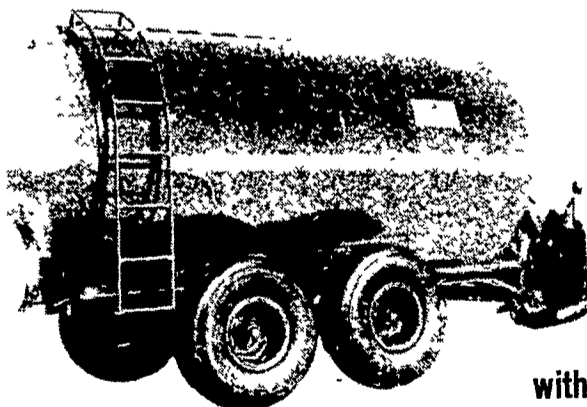
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