



Despite increasing use of forages, pasture and rangeland, research in these areas is declining, according to Dr. William Templeton, Jr., (insert) director of the United States Department of Agriculture regional forage and pasture

research laboratory at Penn State. He says the need for more forage and pasture research has been pointed out at major national and international conferences.

## Forage research dwindling while needs increase

By DIETER KRIEG

CAMP HILL — The fact that forage research has been diminishing during times when farmers need to realize optimum productivity from their lands should be a cause of concern to everyone in the country, says Dr. William C. Templeton, Jr., director of the U.S. Regional Pasture Research Laboratory on the Pennsylvania State University campus at University Park. Added to that concern should be the fact that while research funds and activities are being severely trimmed at the public level, a growing populace is taking millions of acres of farmland out of production each year.

Speaking here earlier this month to a gathering of seed dealers and other agriculturalists during the annual Seed Marketing Symposium, sponsored by Beechley-Hardy Seed Co. of Shiremanstown, Templeton said that the Soil Conservation Service completed a study in 1976 which showed that some 2.8 million acres of farmland in the Northeast went for urban development between the years 1967 and 1975. Over 50 per cent of that total was Class I, II or III soil.

Broadening his speech's base, Templeton declared that agricultural research on all levels is suffering as a result of increased enrollments in agricultural colleges. Monies flowing into the learning institution is being used to provide more space and facilities for students, hire more

teachers, and otherwise meet the needs of bloating educational budgets.

Templeton contends that there is a clear need for more research, but instead the industry has seen a steady decline of public supported research efforts since 1965. He points out that research funds for corn sorghum and other grains increased by 16 per cent from 1967 to 1974. Soybean research increased by 61 per cent during those years. Pasture, forage, and range research was cut by nine per cent in that span of time.

Citing conclusions of national studies and conferences, the forage and pasture researcher said that the need for more forage and range research is widely recognized as one of the more pressing needs in agriculture today. At a conference on determining future U.S. and world food needs, it was concluded that the area of forage, pasture, and range research is in need of 126 additional scientist-years.

According to Templeton and others close to the subject, increased research in his field of work and study is needed in order to develop forage crop varieties with multiple resistance to insects, diseases, and nematodes, and in

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