Plum Bottom Farm to host first Forage Day

BELLEVILLE – Commercial exhibits and tours of efficient grass and legume management systems will be highlights of the first Forage Day scheduled for June 19 at Plum Bottom Dairy Farm in Mifflin County

The field day, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Forage and Grassland Council and The Pennsylvania State Unversity's Cooperative Extension Service, will start at 10 a m. The site is located two miles northeast of Belleville on Route 655

"Numerous companies who produce forage-related equipment and supplies will exhibit their products at the field day," points out Dr William Stringer, Penn State professor of agronomy and chairman of the event

Tours will focus on management systems carried out at Plum Bottom Dairy Farm that produce high quality forage at a low cost. These include: --Manure application compared to chemical fertilization Soil test information will be available to compare the two fertilization programs

-Potassium fertilization of alfalfa One part of a field was fertilized with potassium, the other part received none Tissue samples will be compared for nutrient content

--Regrowth study of legume and grass variety

plots Altalta, red clover, orchardgrass, timothy, reed canarygrass, brome, and fescue will be harvested at various stages of growth These stages of growth will be analyzed

-Interseeding legumes in pastures Birdsfoot trefoil and alfalfa, direct-seeded in bluegrass sod, will be analyzed

-Planting no-till corn in established forage crops A study of corn, planted in established stands of crown

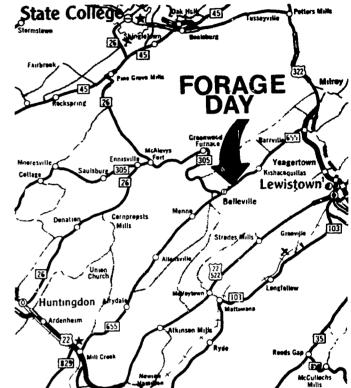
vetch, crown vetch and budsfoot trefoil, and birdsfoot trefoil will be conducted.

-The effect of lime on weed control in no-till corn will be viewed by field day participants.

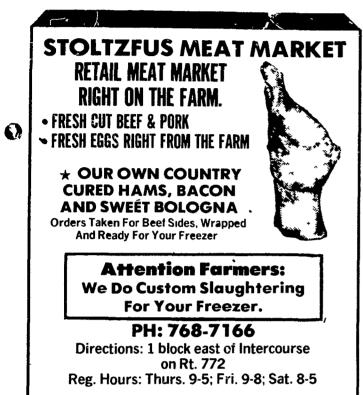
-Weed control in a conventional seeding of alfalfa, showing the effect of pre and post emergence weed control chemicals, will be observed.

Dr Stringer notes that Penn State College of Agriculture specialists will be stationed at the various tour stops to answer questions on efficient forage crop management.

In addition, those interested in tree farm management will have an opportunity to check a woodlot that was harvested 20 years ago and again last year. A representative from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources will explain what changes have occurred in the past as a result of cutting and what can be expected to happen to the stand in the future.



Plum Bottom Farm is located off of Route 655, ortheast of Belleville.



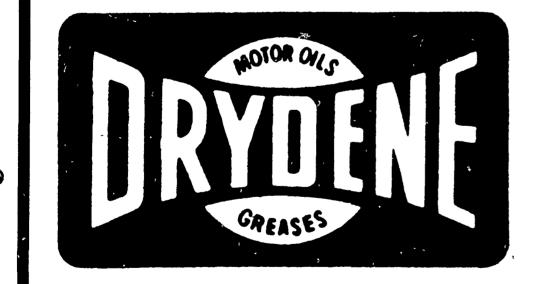
right, and Plum Bottom Farm representative Robert Stauffer have the hay samples prepared for your inspection on Tuesday. There's a contest involved too. Plum Bottom Farm in northeast of Belleville.

Mifflin County Extension Agent Clair DeLong,

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