

Dairy Pipeline

(Continued from Page D4)

least I'd have the satisfaction of knowing I did a pretty good job feeding the herd over the winter and putting up good quality forage last year.

If production did drop when cows went out to pasture, I would also want to restrict pasture consumption in order to increase dry matter intake by feeding more hay, low-moisture silage, or hay.

So, now is a good time to be analyzing what went wrong and what went right.

Did you have the quality and quantity of forages you needed for good production, plus the quantity and uniformity necessary for developing a balanced ration and a good, economical feeding program?

Could you have benefited from feeding more forages, or from having more hay crop forages in the dairy ration?

Having answered these questions and determined your forage needs, your next challenge is to grow, harvest, purchase, store and feed out your forages in accordance with these needs. Easier

said than done—but, here are a few possibilities for consideration.

Concentrate on planting those forage crops which you need the most, the ones which are most expensive to buy or will save you the most in purchased feed costs, and the ones for which quality is most difficult to control.

Perhaps it is alfalfa. If you grow your own, you are in a good position to control and anticipate its quality, whether it be good or bad.

However, you may not have the time nor the equipment necessary to plant and harvest crops in a manner conducive to top quality, or you may have insufficient acreage.

In this case, there are several other options: hire someone to grow and harvest forages for you, or make purchase arrangements for forages well in advance of need—and before prices skyrocket.

In other words, attempt to control the quality and quantity of your forage, and the market, to your advantage.

Stage of maturity and moisture

at time of harvesting are two factors which greatly affect quality. Come harvest time, it seems like the weather never cooperates and there is always more work to be done than time permits.

Here are a few suggestions for relieving the strain, reducing the risks and improving forage quality.

Select alfalfa varieties and hay crops of different maturities. If mixed stands are planted, make sure the species have compatible maturities. The use of hay preservatives or ensiling a crop as haylage lets you harvest at optimum maturities for top quality and gives you a jump on the weather.

To keep all the corn from becoming "ready" on the same day, stagger the planting dates, or plant hybrids of different maturities. This will also stagger pollination times, thus reducing the risk of reduced yields due to poor pollination.

Variety - Not the Spice of Life

For dairy cows, variety may not always be the spice of life. It is difficult for cows to sustain production when they have to adjust to frequent changes in the ration,

production and herd health can suffer.

This can occur when cows are fed timothy hay this week, switched to clover or a different batch of timothy next week, then to haylage the following week. The quality and consistency of these forages can vary considerably, and it becomes almost impossible to keep the ration balanced.

Thus, there are advantages to growing fewer different crops and growing more acres of them, while also concentrating on top quality and high yields.

For example, maybe alfalfa and corn, plus a few acres of grass, ought to be your only crops. They complement each other well in the feeding program. They are high quality, nutritious production and milk yield per acre.

However, every farm situation is different. You may need some small grains to provide you with straw, or some sudex to stretch your pastures out through the summer, etc.

If you're short on hay, you may be forced to take a cutting off of an old sod field before planting it to a late crop of corn. Generally, these practices and crops are not as productive as a corn-alfalfa rotation. They may bail you out of an immediate emergency only to leave you in a similar predicament a year from now because you are not as productive. However, before making any changes, consider all costs and analyze your situation very carefully, every farm has its own unique situations.

Prepare for droughts

Summer droughts can alter the best of plans. Droughts are hard to predict, but in our area, we are already entering Spring with low levels of soil moisture.

To help combat the stunning effects of a dry summer, you can encourage crops to develop deep, extensive root systems, and preserve soil moisture.

Deep rooting is fostered by good fertility, good drainage, good soil tilth, and by early planting. The incorporation of lime, fertilizer and manure at recommended rates will help.

Plant crops as early as practical to give them maximum opportunity to become well established and deep rooted before summer droughts set in.

Here is where double cropping can work against you, the first crop consumes scarce moisture and the second crop may never get established nor do well, you may do better planting a full season crop early.

Plant deep rooted crops such as alfalfa, they'll survive dry spells better than shallow rooted crops such as grasses. The proper use of starter fertilizers encourages rapid root development, and the use of soil insecticides can help prevent roots from insect injury.

Few better water absorption and for less runoff, avoid soil compaction, and practice strip cropping and contour farming whenever possible. Perform the minimum amount of tillage. One of the best conservation practices is no-till seeding into a mulch cover.

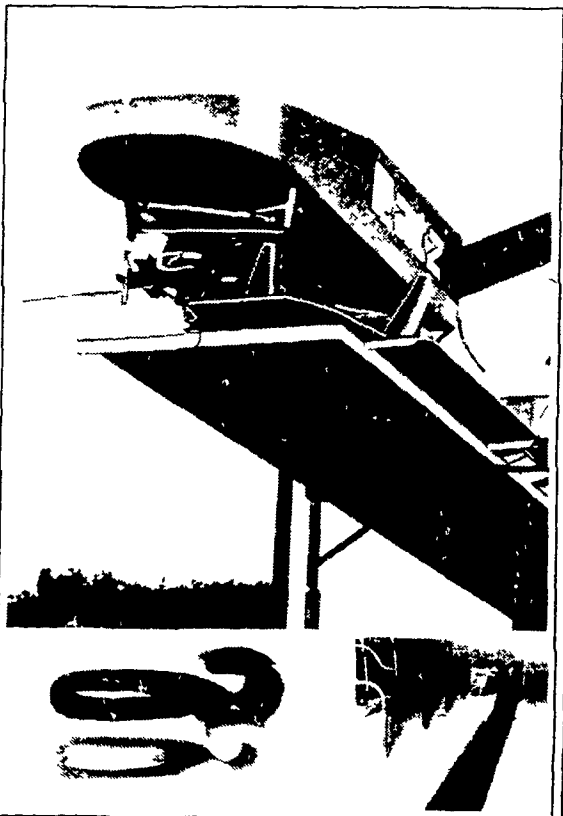
THE PATZ SOLUTION: Rugged, Dependable Gutter Cleaners



Your gutter cleaner has to work day after day, year after year. Better make sure you can depend on it. Patz gives you over 30 years of quality and dependability in every gutter cleaner we make. We're the ones with the proven forged steel hook and eye link—the secret to Patz performance. You can easily remove or replace links and fillets without tools.

Your Patz gutter cleaner becomes a wise investment for you over the years because it's built to last. The all steel slide and one piece steel fillets with wear shoes are engineered to withstand the rugged wear of every day operation. And Patz gutter cleaners are adaptable to many layouts.

Talk to your Patz dealer. He'll show you how Patz performance means fewer problems for you. And that gives you more time to manage your livestock operation for greater profit.



Heavy duty link (top) and extra heavy duty link (bottom) for long chains and heavy loads.

Adapts to varied installation layouts.

Patz Pound Wisconsin 54181 U.S.A.
Performance Strong as Steel

DISTRICT MANAGER

GEORGE HEATH 472 Woodcrest Dr. Mechanicsburg, PA 17055 717-737-0002

Contact your nearest Patz dealer

ALEXANDRIA
MAX ISENBERG
814-669-4027

BALLY
LONGACRE
ELECTRIC
215-845-2261

BEDFORD
BENCE FARM
EQUIPMENT
814-623-8601

BELLEVILLE
MACLAY & SON
717-935-2101

CAMP HILL
LLOYD SULTZBAUGH
717-737-4554

CHAMBERSBURG
CUMBERLAND FARM
& DAIRY INC
717-263-1965

HAMBURG
SHARTLESVILLE
FARM SERVICE
215-488-1025

LEBANON
MARVIN J HORST
DAIRY EQUIPMENT
717-272-0871

MILLERSBURG
LANDIS
LABOR SAVERS
717-692-4647

MILTON
LANDIS FARMSTEAD
AUTOMATION
717-437-2375

PIPERSVILLE
MOYER
FARM SERVICE
215-766-8675

QUARRYVILLE
UNICORN FARM
SERVICE
JAMES E. LANDIS
717-786-4158

TERRE HILL
TERRE HILL
SILO CO. INC
215-445-6736

MARYLAND DEALERS
HAGERSTOWN, MD
TRI-STATE
FARM AUTOMATION
301-790-3698

KENNEDYVILLE, MD
PINDER SERVICE CO
301-348-5263

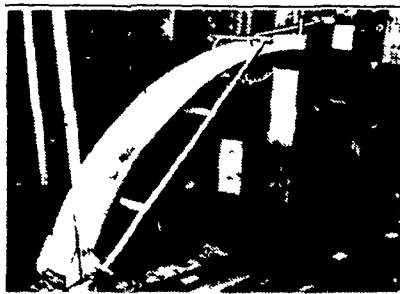
LINEBORO, MD
WERTZ GARAGE, INC
301-374-2672

STREET, MD
P & S EQUIPMENT,
INC
301-452-8521

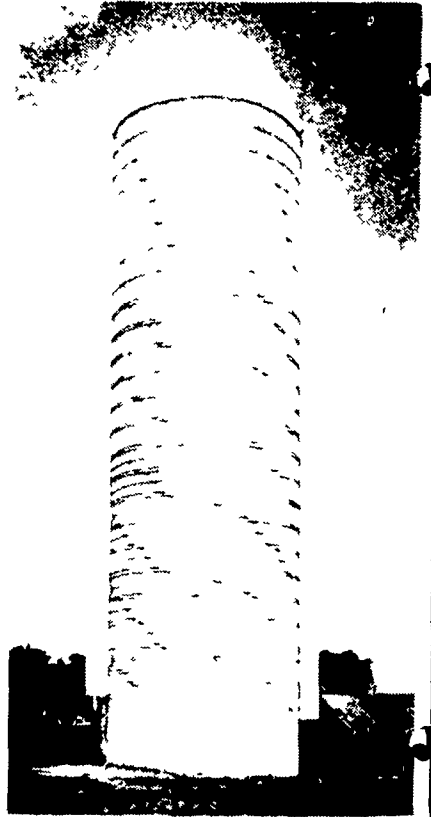
The PROVEN Fickes MASTER-MATIC SILO SYSTEM

Master-Matic is the proven automatic silage handling system first introduced in the eastern United States by Fickes over a year ago. There's no longer any need to enter the silo. Once filled, the silo can be unloaded from top to bottom—automatically. The Silo-Matic Continuous door unloader moves down the continuous doors to unload haylage, corn silage, or high moisture corn. It operates effectively, efficiently and without mechanical problems.

- The Fickes-Master Matic Silo System offers you**
- CONVENIENCE**—Puts an end to the chore of climbing the silo every few days.
 - TIME-SAVING**—Keeps you out of the silo so you can spend your time to more profitable advantage.
 - CLEAN ENTRY CHUTE**—Continuous door chute used for unloading. Second chute doors remain in place always clean.



SILU-MATIC CONTINUOUS DOOR SILO UNLOADER
This exclusive unit design has been in use in continuous door silos for over a year. It has been thoroughly tested and proved under farm operating conditions with haylage, corn silage and high moisture corn. The Silo-Matic Continuous Door Silo Unloader automatically moves down the silo door to deliver the greenstock in perfect alignment with the chute door and hood. It maintains silage position in the maximum silage sitting thickness. There are no springs, ropes, cables, pulleys, adjusters or the downward movement of the unloader operated by gravity. The electrically plugged into a power source at the top of the silo. The electrically automatic unloader is the unloader in silos with the Silo-Matic.



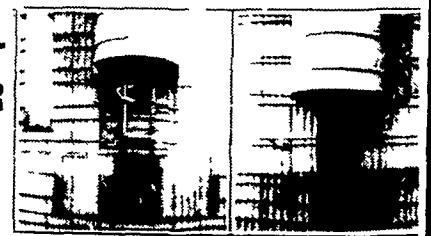
Silo-Matic TRAVELING BELT FEEDER

FAST, HIGH VOLUME CATTLE FEEDING WITHOUT SEPARATION

- Smooth Slip-Proof Fixed Speed Drive
- Even Distribution—No Feed Build Up
- Belt Glides on Plywood Trays
- Self Tightening Self-Cleaning Feed Belt
- Low Horsepower Requirements
- No Separation of Mixed Feeds
- Optional Automatic Reversing Switch For Continuous Feeding



PH: 717-776-3129



Clean Chute—This photograph shows the clean chute side of the Fickes Silo-Matic system. The system provides clean entry to the silo at all times. Doors are refrigerated for loading of the Fickes Swingback hinged doors.

Unloading Chute—The continuous door chute shown here with continuous door unloader in place. The unloader is plugged into a power source at the top of the silo. The electrically automatic unloader is the unloader in silos with the Silo-Matic.

Please fill out and mail the coupon below. Fickes will mail complete information to you.

Please send me complete information and details on the New Fickes MASTER-MATIC SILO SYSTEM

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
TELEPHONE (AREA CODE) _____
FARMER STUDENT _____