

Chamber testimony given

HARRISBURG — The House Agriculture Committee, chaired by state Rep. Samuel Morris, D-Chester, last week heard testimony on legislation that would outlaw the use of decompressed chambers to kill unwanted animals in Pennsylvania.

Sixteen witnesses — including state Rep. Thomas Murphy, D-Allegheny, sponsor of House Bill 350 — testified on the merits of the legislation. Thus far, twenty states

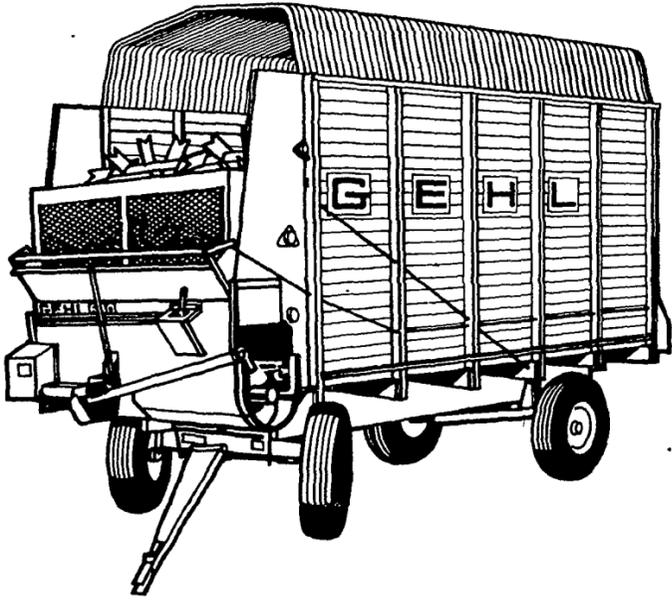
have banned the chambers, which kill the animal by withdrawing air and thus plunging air pressure to a fatal level. The method's critics maintain that, while the chambers are efficient, the animals are subjected to extreme pain during the time necessary to end their lives.

The most common alternative to decompression chambers is by overdose injection of barbiturates. Decompression foes contend that injection is a quick, painless

method of killing, while those who favor the chambers say they are cheaper than the injection method.

Witnesses for today's hearings included representatives of the American Veterinary Medical Association, the Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association, various chapters of the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the Humane Society of Harrisburg, the Humane League of Lancaster County, and an organization entitled Justice for Animals.

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Dairy Pipeline



By
Glenn A. Shirk
Extension
Dairy
Agent

Getting the Most Out of Your Forages

Feed represents 50-65% of the total cost of producing milk. One of the most economical sources of feed nutrients is good quality, home-grown forages. They also provide cows with the fiber they need.

All of the forages we grow or purchase are not of the highest quality — nor do they need to be. Heifers, dry cows and lower producers can utilize some of the lower quality forages quite effectively, providing that we keep their rations properly balanced.

Our challenge then is to 1.) grow and harvest the best quality forages and harvest the maximum yield of nutrients on the land that is available to us, 2.) make maximum use of the variety (kinds of qualities) of forages we have, and to 3.) do all of this as economically as possible. Not an easy task! However, if accomplished, this should help reduce feed costs, improve dry matter intakes, enhance herd health, stimulate high and efficient levels of milk production, and increase farm profits. That's worth striving for!

The Right Crops

High quality, high yielding forages start with choosing the right crops. For most dairymen, that will be alfalfa and silage corn. Rye harvested at a young stage of maturity as ryelage and double cropped with silage corn, fits well into this cropping system. Other high quality, but lower-yielding, forage crops include timothy,

brom grass, young-cut orchardgrass, clovers, etc.

Maturity

Maturity of the crop at time of harvest affects quality more than any other single factor. Feeding values of forages diminish rapidly as the crop matures, with one exception. Silage corn improves in quality as the plant reaches physiological maturity; that's when the black abscission layer forms at the base of the kernel.

Alfalfa should be cut at the bud stage of maturity. To accomplish this, aftermath cuttings will have to be cut at about five-week intervals. If you are striving for four cuttings by the beginning of September, the first cutting should have been removed around mid-May. An additional cutting might be possible after the first killing frost.

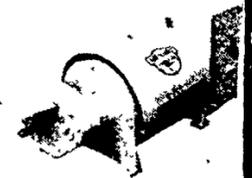
Alfalfa stands must be vigorous to survive these intense cutting schedules. That requires good management — good fertility plus good control of insects, especially leafhoppers, good control of weeds and the use of disease resistant varieties. For newly seeded stands, weak stands and for stands that have been stressed recently, allow the next cutting or two to come into bloom. One thing you don't want is to lose your stand prematurely; they're too costly to establish.

Harvest grasses in the boot stage, and clovers in early bloom. Rye should have been ensiled at the boot stage. Other small grains can be ensiled in the head stage

(Turn to Page D16)

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Model Selection Chart

Model No	Watts	Momentary Surge Watts	Minimum Required HP	Volts	C B Amps	Phase	Wire	Approximate Wt	
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15LR1	15 000	45 000	25	120/240	60	1	3	425	490
25LR1	25 000	75 000	40	120/240	100	1	3	475	500
35LR1	35 000	105 000	55	120/240	150	1	3	580	600
45LR1	45 000	135 000	70	120/240	175	1	3	670	730
55LR1	55 000	165 000	86	120/240	225	1	3	730	750
85LR1	85 000	255 000	130	120/240	350	1	3	795	860

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