

Alfalfa plot tests & embryo transfers highlight 'day'

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show the differences in cutting intervals, and a demonstration was given by Les Lanyon of Penn State on the effects of manure application on alfalfa crops.

Lanyon explained the advantages and disadvantages associated with various fertilizer applications. Examples he used in his demonstration were four plots, each which received a different fertilizer application.

Each alfalfa plant, Lanyon said, is like a nitrogen fertilizer factory. When manure is applied to a field, nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium are added. The alfalfa, he said, readily uses these minerals.

After presenting his demonstration, Lanyon answered questions and discussed fertilizer applications. A major concern farmers have about fertilizing, he said, is the timing and if using manure, how much is needed.

Exhibits

A newly constructed Morton machinery and storage building, measuring 60 by 200 feet, served as an exhibition hall for 38 commercial exhibitors. Agri-business displays representing all aspects of forage production and feeding included everything from seed, fertilizer and pesticides to forage preservatives and storage facilities.

Tractors, planters, and forage handling equipment were also on display, but were not demonstrated.

Complementing the commercial exhibits were educational exhibits by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, University of Pennsylvania, and Penn State University.

Faculty members from the University of Pennsylvania distributed information on the

nutritional services offered to the livestock industry by the Penn School of Veterinary Medicine. Veterinarians and nutritionists at the New Bolton Center work together to evaluate rations in relation to total management programs and performance objectives.

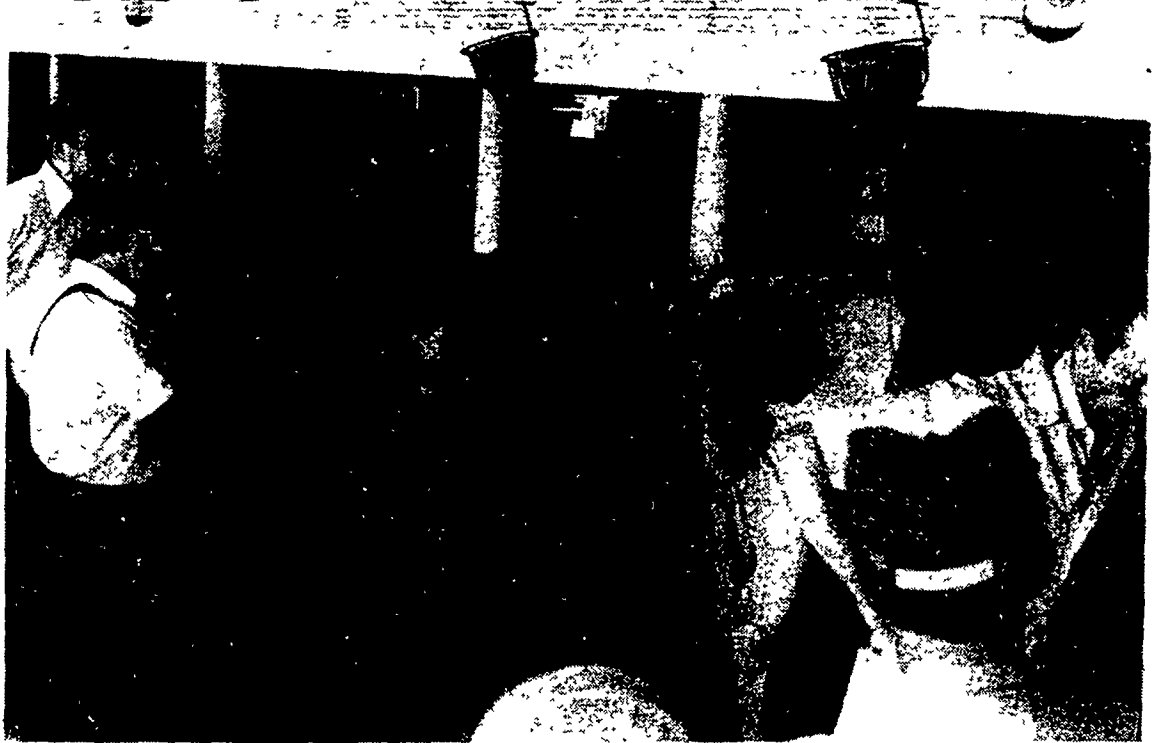
Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Chester Heim helped man the PDA exhibit, answering questions dealing with agricultural production and marketing.

Penn State economists demonstrated dairy ration and budgeting programs on a microcomputer. Professor William Grisely explained the results of a Penn State study that examined price formation of hay in Pennsylvania hay markets.

Mini Hay Auction

Anyone that was interested in buying hay was given the opportunity to do so during a mini hay auction. The Pennsylvania Forage and Grassland Council organized the auction. Seven loads of hay were available for sale by producer-members of the Council. Each load of hay was sampled and

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A crowd of interested spectators gathered to watch a demonstration of embryo transfer. Dr. Allan McCauley, left, of EmTran embryo transfer service explains to the onlookers the flushing process being performed by two veterinarian-technician teams.

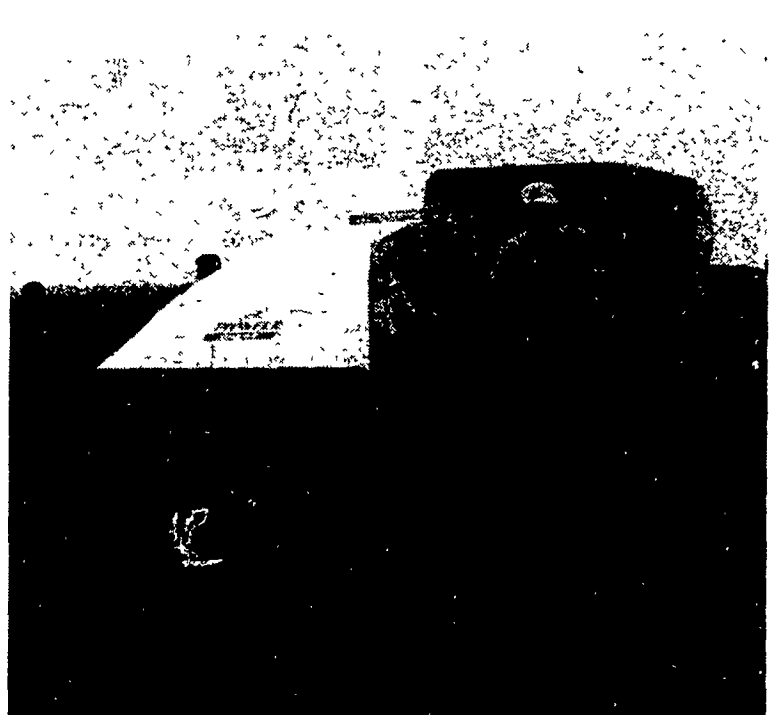


Auctioneer Harry Bachman auctioned off seven loads of hay in a mini hay auction. Posted on each load was an analysis of the hay.

Mini Hay Auction Report

Load #	Moisture (%)	* Composition			Type	Selling Price (\$ per ton)
		CP (%)	ADF (%)	TDN (%)		
1	18	19.7	44.1	56	2nd cut alfalfa	no sale
2	22	16.3	39.2	58	2nd cut alfalfa	75
3	14	11.8	46.7	49	mixed	57.50
4	15	15.4	42.1	55	1st cut alfalfa	55
5	14	8.9	44.5	52	1st cut mixed	75
6	17	16.5	39.3	58	2nd cut alfalfa	90
7	18	15.8	40.6	56	2nd cut alfalfa	67.50

* on a dry matter basis



A Pioneer Plot Sampler, drive by Wilmer Nissley of the Pioneer Seed Company, was used to cut and weigh each alfalfa sample. Samples from 10 different alfalfa-grass mixtures were used for the on-the-spot testing program at the Pa. Forage-Dairy Field Day.

Grasslanders reminisce

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN

HERSHEY — Members of the Pennsylvania Forage and Grassland Council and guests gathered for a preview Monday night of the Forage and Dairy Day and reminisced a bit about their beginnings.

The Council was formed 23 years ago and in two years will be celebrating its silver anniversary, explained John R. Rodgers, Mifflin County dairyman, and co-chairman of the day's activities.

The American Forage and Grassland Council will be coming to Pennsylvania to help celebrate the 25th anniversary in two years, he added.

The Council's Grassland and Pasture Renovation Days beginning in the early-1950's were the forerunners of today's Ag Progress Days at Penn State.

"And we've had similar progress in the annual alfalfa competition," Rodgers explained.

"Six or seven years ago, yields were about seven tons an acre. In 1982, the top yield was 10.2 tons per

acre. And our goal is 12 tons per acre.

Included in the audience was John Baylor, retired Penn Stater and now with Beachley-Hardy Seeds, who helped found the Council.

Featured speaker at the preview was Joseph Harrington, Director of Ag Progress Days.

Harrington stressed the importance of agriculture to the U.S. by citing it as the "Number One industry, Number One employer, Number One inflation fighter and Number One exporter."

Turning to ag research at Penn State, Harrington said:

"Today's farmer must adopt and adapt to new technology in order to survive."

Penn State has some 275 ag research projects underway and valued at \$15 million, he said.

These range from animal genetics to better use of the four million idle acres of open forest and pastureland in the Commonwealth.

In 1982, Pennsylvania farmers invested some \$26 million in soil and water conservation measures and techniques. Of that amount, only a little more than \$3.6 million was federal cost-sharing dollars and the rest came out of the farmers' pockets.

The days of declining ag enrollments at Penn State appeared to have turned around, Harrington said.

Paid acceptances in ag enrollment are up some 9.7 percent, he said. Two-thirds of the students don't have any ag background and 40 percent are female. And the college is actively recruiting minority ag students.

Harrington also traced a bit of history of Ag Progress, explaining how it traveled around the state at different locations from 1969 to 1976 and has been held at the Rock Springs Research Farm permanent site since.

Together with associations and agencies, some 300 exhibitors are expected this year.



Penn State research aid Debbie Snyder collects an alfalfa sample to be tested on the near-infrared (NIR) analysis unit. About 10 to 15 minutes are needed to run each sample.