

Will your forage supply be adequate?

NEWARK, Del. — The dry weather in much of Delaware has reduced the amount of hay and silage per acre harvested and has increased use of these stored crops during this summer. The end result is that many dairy farmers will not have as much forage to feed prior to next year's harvest. If you are short of forage, now is the time to plan how you are going to manage your feed supply says George F.W. Haenlein, University of Delaware Dairy Specialist. Do not wait until you are almost out of forage before you take some action, because it will probably cost you more to adjust your program if you wait.

The first step in planning your program would be to take inventory of how much forage you have and then calculate how long it will last.

For a herd of milking cows weighing about 1400 lbs, each cow will need to eat approximately: 1. 1,050 lbs. of hay per month; or, 2. 2,100 lbs. of silage per month (at 35% dry matter); or, 3. 1,575 lbs. of haylage (at 50% dry matter); or, 4. Any combination of the above. (Conversion ratios 1:2:1.5 for lb hay to lb silage to lb haylage).

Heifers, if the range in age is

evenly distributed between birth to first calving, will require about one half the amount estimated for the milking herd.

If your calculated requirement is greater than the amount of stored forage available, several alternatives are available to you for consideration: 1. Sell animals; 2. Buy forage; 3. Substitute some grain for forage; 4. Increase productivity of any pastures and other growing forages, e.g. winter forages such as barley, wheat or rye; 5. Consider alternative feeds.

A poor alternative is to reduce the amount of forage fed without increasing nutrients from some other source.

Low producing cows which are not profitable should be culled after the base mixing period. These should be sold even if you don't have a shortage of feed. Dairyman will profit by milking borderline cows during the base-months (Aug. through Dec.) in order to establish a higher price next year. In this situation, these cows should be sold in January to reduce feed consumption. It is more profitable to feed fewer cows well rather than underfeed the entire herd.

If you plan to stretch your forage

supply by purchasing hay, it will probably pay you to purchase the hay as soon as possible. In years when there is a shortage of forage, hay prices can be expected to increase as spring approaches.

The decision to reduce forage intake and increase the amount of grain fed will depend on the relative price of the different types of feed. For example, if corn is \$4 per bu. and soybean oil meal (48%) is \$280/ton, good quality alfalfa hay is worth about \$140 per ton. Poor quality fescue hay is not likely to be a good buy for dairy cows because of the presence of toxic substances in some fescue which would depress milk producing abilities of dairy cows. Tables are available from your county agent which can help you decide the value of purchasing additional hay or increasing the amount of grain or other concentrates.

When hay prices are high relative to other feeds, the amount of forage can be reduced in some herds; however, a minimum amount of fiber is needed to maintain normal rumen function and maintain normal milk fat test.

Cows not receiving enough fiber will decrease fat test drastically in some situations. When cows are fed high levels of grain even with free-choice hay, they frequently have a decline in fat test because the average fiber content of their diet is too low.

The total diet should contain a minimum of 17% crude fiber or about 21% acid detergent fiber (ADF) in order to maintain normal milk fat test. Herds which underfeed the cows on energy may get an increase in milk yield when they increase grain feeding with reduced forage feeding.

For growing heifers, the fiber content of the diet can be lower than for lactating cows. In many operations, it will be easier to manage the substitution of grain for forage in the diet of growing animals. A minimum crude fiber content of about 12% is needed to prevent bloat or related problems. Depending to a great extent on the quality of the forage, 0.6 to 0.8 lbs. of grain will supply the same energy as one pound of hay eaten.

When minimum fiber levels cannot be maintained, some compensation can be made by adding buffers to the diet. The addition of 30 lbs. of sodium bicarbonate and/or 15 lbs. of magnesium oxide per ton of grain can help to maintain a normal fat test when the diet does not contain adequate fiber.

Fall and spring pastures, if available, can be made more productive with nitrogen fertilization. Not only will the nitrogen increase yields but the fertilizer generally promotes the growth of grass so that the pastures can be utilized earlier. These additional grazing days can help reduce the amount of stored forage needed.

Do not fail to plan now for an adequate supply of forage. If the drought has decreased your normal supply of hay and silage, plan now so that you can maintain a feeding program which supplies adequate fiber and other nutrients to your herd.

MAILBOX MARKET

Notice - Will trade model 700 Univ. Tractor w/10' combine For 1 or 2 row cornpicker. Lanc Co., 717-285-5813, 285-7204 eves.

For Sale - Grade Holstein calves and heifers, out of well known bulls. 717-637-8131 York Co

For Sale - Five, 6 wk old dutch bunnies, black and white Christ Glick, East Brook Rd, Smoketown, Lanc Co., Pa

For Sale - 5 yr old work horse also cauliflower by Oct 12-15 Henry S Beiler, Christiana, #1, Box 83, Pa

MAILBOX MARKET

For Sale - 5 yr. old Jersey cow w/Surge milking machine. \$800/both Warren Co. 201-362-9309

For Sale - NI picker works \$495, bin wagon \$495, old corn & standing corn in field. Fairbanks platform scales, 717-354-0266

For Sale - 3 Discs JDRWA 36 Blade, JD RWA 28 Blade, Massey Harris Model 28 7' York Co., 717-862-3741

For Sale - 5 gal. aluminum roof coating, Agways best Lanc Co., 717-626-5389

For Sale - NI #10 corn picker, also Kilbros gravity bin or gear Both in good cond., Lanc Co., 717-626-5532

For Sale - Hesston narrow 2 row corn head like new fits Hesston pull type harvesters Union Co., 717-524-2410 nights 524-2408

For Sale - Ford manure loader to fit 4,000 or 5,000, two horse hay wagon, two horse swab wagon, (Box), 717-362-9842

For Sale - Hydraulic pump for 2640 JD and small injection pump for 2020 JD 717-733-4516.

For Sale - Rye seed cleaned and bagged \$5.00 bu New Holland, Lanc Co., 717-354-0246

For Sale - 5 yr old standardbred horse anyone can drive. 717-354-5039, Lanc Co

For Sale - Registered Quarter Horses 1981 Buckskin Gelding placed 6th in K Q H A Snaffle Bit Futurity Yearling sister Berks Co., 215-689-5142

For Sale - 1974 Chevy Pickup truck 1/2 ton 3 sp 6 cylinder. Mechanical excellent body fair hitch, Dauphin Co., 717-469-7448.

For Sale - 970 Case-1976 model, 2200 hrs. good rubber. \$7200 00 215-445-5796.

For Sale - NI #6 2 R.W. Corn picker \$575 York Co., 717-292-4416.

For Sale - 701 Uni-System, 720 head, 726 Husking bed, Field Ready; Also Mity-Mac skid loader with 2 buckets. Lanc. Co., 717-367-6292

For Sale - D4 caterpillar w/loader; 1963 Cadillac convertible JD 40 wide front high clearance; TD9 for parts w/blade 717-626-5689

For Sale - Lot of harnesses, hames, bridles, dolers, lines 717-428-1686 Seven Valleys, Pa.

For Sale - Veal milker & kitchen sink with Stainsteel tub & top good cond., Lanc Co., 717-354-0018

For Sale - Blue log cabin, quilted pillows with two ruffles Wanted - used sheep skins, 717-354-8598, Lanc. Co

For Sale - Set Sal Link pullets \$3.45 steel wheel \$260.00 or will trade for tires John Leid, Lanc. Co., 215-445-4837.

For Sale - 300 golden comet pullets 20 wk. old Oct. 18 \$3.40 each. Lanc. Co., 717-733-6697.

For Sale - NI 12A manure spreader \$300, Lister SR4 diesel generator as is \$500. Col. Co., 717-752-5064.

For Sale - Pony gelding, 13.2h great jumper for fox hunt, show, or pony club. Asking \$900, 215-932-4728

For Sale - Pick your own cider apples for \$1.50/bushel, also used bushel crates, and apple firewood Col. Co., 717-672-2638

For Sale - 16' even-flo electric distributor \$50.00, 3 Badger corner wheels in good cond., 454 High Performance Chevy engine 717-933-4616.

For Sale - 24' Sam Mulky Conveyor, JD 13 disc grain drill, Small seed cleaner w/elec motor-Lanc Co., 717-665-3865.

MAILBOX MARKET

For Sale - W&W 4 horse trailer 5'x13' inside tac, middle gate escape door, rear slide or hinge \$1500. Juniata Co. 717-589-3320.

For Sale - 12'x60' 1975 Atlantic mobile home, good cond., partly furnished, Cambria Co. (between Patton & Chest Springs. 814-674-5412.

For Sale - Young, proven purebred Romney rams, also young Oxford-x ewe, Romney-x ewe lamb Chester Co. 215-932-3577.

For Sale - 1975 Chevy 1/2 ton pickup 6 cyl. auto low mileage, good cond. Somerset Co. 201-356-6363.

For Sale - Belgian Geldings, Sorrell one 3 yr well broke, 18 hands & 2 coming 2 yr olds. Ontario Co 716-394-8239

Wanted - Coal & wood furnace for small shop, also small crawler tractor. 717 859-2797

Wanted Married person to work on dairy farm, must have farming background, experienced w/dairy cows & machinery Somerset Co 814 267-5248

For Sale - 40 lb pigs, Broilers on range alive or dressed. Bucket-a-Day water heater, Sam King, S. Belmont Rd Ronks, Pa 17572

For Sale - 1 grain bin on steel, 1 hyd system, work harness, kitchen combine, Warm Morning stove Narvon, Pa. 717-768-8359.

For Sale - MF 1155 cab, air, 23.5-32 rubber dual remode \$9,000 Lanc. Co 717-859-2712

Wanted - Part-time person to milk & taking care of cattle every other weekend, experience helpful. 717-766-3180.

For Sale - Ewes, 2-4 yr. old Suffolk & Lambs X, aged but sound thoroughbred, \$250. Chester Co. 215-869-3128

For Sale - Sheep & goats, young ewes & wethers, reg Nubian buck & doe, reg. Toggenburg doe, Bradford Co. 717-673-5644.

For Sale - Young Holstein bull, good bloodlines, ready for service Cumberland Co. 717-776-7158

For Sale - Top Buggy, good cond., Hydraulic brakes, lights, steel wheels Lanc Co. 717-354-6192

For Sale - Foley 387 Filer-hyd. dump farm trailer 6x8 bed w' sides, end gate. Best offer-Bark mulch, Lanc Co. 717-354-5060

For Sale - Surge 25 KW P.T.O. Alternator, Heavy Duty, Ex. Cond., cart & elec. connector 1,635 best. Lanc. Co., 717-665-6482.

For Sale - 3 Crossbred boards, breeding age \$125.00 each. Also 18 4x30 rear tractor tires in good cond., Lanc Co., 717-354-8894.

For Sale - 6 York-Landrace service age boards. Good productive bloodlines. \$200.00 each Call (717) 656-9474.

For Sale - 40 Bu. Hart seed wheat 5.50 bu certified last year. 717-755-1187 York Co.

For Sale - Purebred and Grade Nubian Dairy Goats. Ideal 4-H or commercial project breeders Does and bucks. Gettysburg (717) 334-7993

For Sale - Fresh and Springing Holstein Heifers AI, sired, DHIA records on dams (717)-354-9370

For Sale - 18 bu. cleaned rye seed bagged 4.75 per bu Storm windows and storm doors. Lanc Co., 717-653-8016.

For Sale - Chihuahau & Fox Terrier mixed. Lanc Co., 717-786-3060.

HEAVY DUTY REPLACEMENT CHAIN

HUSKY

WILL FIT: Clay, Jamesway, Patz, Badger & Berg Equipment

HOOK AND EYE Prices FORAGE LINKS
Unbeatable

A Chain You Must See To Appreciate - Only Then Will You See What It Has To Offer

See Your Route Salesman or Call Us At 626-1151

This Chain Will Replace Most Brands of Chains

ALL NEW! **HUSKY** LIQUID MANURE EQUIPMENT

HUSKY LAGOON PUMP

- The Husky Lagoon Manure Pump Gets Down Under Where The Solids Are And Tears Them To Pieces
- Equipped With Cutter Blades To Chop Up Most Materials In Your Lagoon
- 540 RPM 70 HP
- 1000 RPM 150 HP

MODEL K31 LIQUID PUMP (3600 GPM) **HUSKY**

HUSKY FRONT MOUNT SOIL INJECTORS

LIQUID TANK SPREADERS
6 sizes to choose from 1200 gal. to 5000 gal.

ALL EQUIPMENT IN STOCK READY FOR DELIVERY
We Need Good Used Liquid Manure Equipment

SERVICE — SALES
SHENK'S FARM SERVICE
501 E. Woods Drive, Box 225, Lititz, PA 17543
Phone 717-626-1151 — Our Service Trucks Are Radio Dispatched
24 Hr. Service Offered — After 6 P.M. — Call:
Mervin Nissley 717-872-4565 Ray Shenk 717-626-1152