Grazing lands simulator is demonstrated

COLLEGE PARK. Md. Computer gaming and simulation aren't just something designed for enticing teen-agers to kill time at the local video arcade.

Rangeland specialists at Montana State University have adapted these techniques to develop "Grazing Lands," a public education analog computer program in which participants land simulator began at 10 a.m., learn to make decisions concerning management of livestock, wildlife and grazing land. Cooperating groups have included the Society for Range Management and the Extension Service in the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"Grazing Lands" made its first East Coast appearance on ThurDay at the University of agronomy-dairy Maryland's forage research farm near Clarksville (Howard county). The event was co-sponsored by the university's Cooperative Extension Service and the Maryland-Delaware Forage Council.

Demonstration of the grazing according to Lester R. Vough, Extension forage crops specialist and associate professor of agronomy at the College Park campus. Delegations from Penn State and Clemson University were on hand as interested observers.

A two-hour tour of research plots on the forage farm began at 1 p.m. sday during a spring Mini-Field Tour stops included Small grains

Pest hotline to begin

NEWARK, Del. - The University of Delaware **Cooperative Extension Service will** again use its crop pest hotline to report on in-season crop pest activity, as part of its integrated pest management and entomology programs. The code-a-phone system will go on line April 19.

According to extension pest management specialist Joanne Whalen, the hotline will provide farmers with information on field scouting methods, first occurrence of pests, peak pest activity, economic thresholds of infestation, and treatment guidelines for insects, weeds and diseases in

will be collected by pest management scouts, U.S. Department of Agriculture APHIS survey personnel, extension specialists and agents, and private consultants. The hotline will be updated weekly during April and May. New reports will go on the system by 10 a.m. on Thursdays. During June, July and August, messages will be updated by noon on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Currently Delaware residents can reach the hotline by dialing 1-800-345-7544. Plans are being made to install an out-of-state line as well.

and annual legumes for winter silage production; Legume cover crops for providing nitrogen to corn; Furadan application and seeding rate evaluations with alfalfa; Alfalfa and red clover variety comparisons.

As an aftermath of cold weather spells earlier this year, the variety comparison plots gave a vivid illustration of which legumes have good winter hardiness, Vough

commented.

A chief reason for the mini-field day, he noted, was to sample the extent of interest in the grazing lands simulator. Although it is programmed for western range conditions, a similar unit could be developed for the humid East if there is sufficient interest.

The "Grazing Lands" simulator demonstration was coordinated by Daniel L. Merkel, USDA Extension

program leader for range management, headquartered in Washington, D.C. Merkel was assisted by representatives from Montana State University. The "Grazing Lands"

anolog computer simulator is the third in a series developed by natural resources specialists at Montana State in recent years. Previous simulator models dealt with energy and water use.

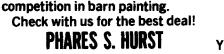


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