

Statewide Dairy Group Honors "Ice Cream Month"

HARRISBURG (Dauphin) — "Summer Love Sundae Tuesday", the annual event honoring July as "Ice Cream Month" in Pennsylvania, is coming to the state capital July 19.

In recognition of Pennsylvania's ranking as the nation's second largest ice cream-producing state, the Pennsylvania Dairy Promotion Program is holding an old-fashioned ice cream social on the steps of the Capitol Building from 11AM to 2PM on Tuesday, July 19.

Governor Casey, members of the House and Senate Agricultural Committees and other dignitaries have been invited to the event, the highlight of which is the distribution of some 10,000 free single-serving ice cream sundaes, featuring chocolate, vanilla, peach, tin roof, cookies 'n' cream and peanut butter ripple ice cream provided by members of the Keystone Ice Cream Association.

"Summer Love Sundae Tuesday" is open to the public free-of-charge, and will include live Dixieland jazz music provided by the four-piece "Creole Kings" band.

Earlier in the month, the Pennsylvania Dairy Promotion Program will join the Centre County Dairy Promotion Committee in constructing and giving away two

giant banana splits during "Children's Day", July 6 at the Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts in State College.

Two, 15-foot canoes will be

filled with all the "fixin's" for banana splits at 1:30PM on the lawn in front of Penn State's Old Main.

The Pennsylvania Dairy Promo-

tion Program is governed by Pennsylvania dairy farmers and promotes consumer awareness and consumption of real dairy products.

Forage Analysis Made Easy

ITHACA, NY — Now dairy farmers can compare the forage analyses of different hays and select the best hay easier than ever before.

The Hay Marketing Task Force of the American Forage and Grassland Council has endorsed the use of Relative Feed Value (RFV) as a measure of forage quality. RFV is calculated from a hay's two major fiber components.

The Northeast DHIA Forage Analysis Laboratory just began providing RFV for common hays and haylages. According to Paul Sirois, DHIA Forage Lab Manager, "RFV has been around for some time, but in various forms. We are joining Wisconsin and Minnesota in applying this latest set of equations. This will hopefully lead to the acceptance of uniform equations across the county."

There are three main components of hay that relate to its feeding value for dairy cattle — available protein, acid detergent fiber (ADF), and neutral detergent fiber (NDF). Up to now, hay has been evaluated primarily on its available protein, largely ignoring ADF and NDF.

People who feed cattle know how much of a given hay a cow will eat, and how much energy she gets from each pound is as important as the hay's protein. "Neutral detergent fiber is strongly correlated with intake, and acid detergent fiber is closely tied with digestibility, or the hay's energy value," according to Paul. "As the fiber components increase, the potential for production decreases."

The reference point is a RFV of 100. That hay would contain 41%

ADF and 53% NDF. Roughly speaking, that would correspond to a full bloom alfalfa with a crude protein of 15%.

The Northeast DHIA Forage Analysis Laboratory will provide Relative Feed Values for legume,

grass, and mixed legume-grass hays and haylages analyzed for ADF and NDF.

For more information, call the Forage Laboratory at 1-800-344-2697 (NY) or 1-800-255-5344 (Northeast.)

Soil Conservation Helps Produce Yields During Droughts

LEESPORT (Berks) — Soil conservation practices provide benefits during a drought, reports a USDA Soil Conservation Service conservationist. "Although farmers generally recognize the value of controlling erosion during rainfall," reported John Fior, soil conservationist, "many are not aware that soil conserving practices such as contour stripcropping, terracing and no-till farming help in times of drought."

Soil conservation practices hold the rainfall on the land to reduce water runoff. Reduced runoff lowers soil loss. Holding the rainfall on the land allows more water to soak into the soil. This provides greater recharges in soil moisture and ground water. More moisture is stored in the soil and is available for crops during periods of below normal rainfall.

Fior explains that every row becomes a small dam when farm crops such as corn or soybeans are planted on the counter. This small dam traps surface water, increasing water infiltration. Cropland storage terraces collect and hold runoff up to 24 hours. This short duration storage permits more rain to soak into the ground.

No-till farming--planting in a

slot, existing sod or plant residue--conserves ground water. The residue acts as a mulch and reduces soil moisture evaporation.

"Corn planted no-till or with other soil and water conserving practices appears to have a definite edge in this year's dry weather," stated Fior.

"It just makes sense," he added, "When you conserve water not only is soil erosion reduced but more water is available in the soil for plants. In times of drought, it can be the difference between profit and loss with a farm crop."

Fior summed it up with this statement, "Soil conservation is the best form of crop assurance available to the farmer."



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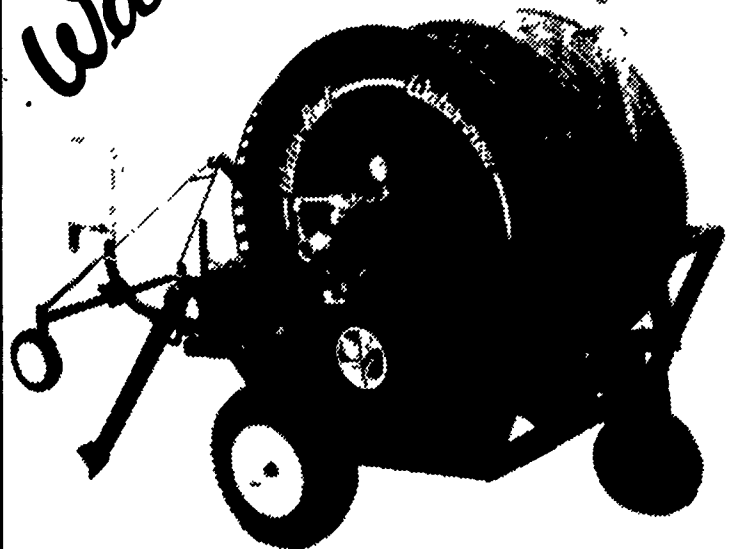
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