

Foraging Around



By Dr. John E. Baylor
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livestock day it will be geared to producers of beef, dairy, horses and sheep. Dr. Harold Harpster of Penn State Dairy and Animal Science Department has gone all out to line up a program on year-around forage systems that you won't miss. You will see on display all the ways to package forages for winterfeed and have a chance to discuss the pros and cons for each package. The role of pasture for various types of livestock will receive lots of attention, too, including species, management, fencing and livestock-handling equipment.

A variety of alfalfa-grass mixtures established last year, along with P.S.U. alfalfa and red clover research trials, will be on display. And weather permitting, and we're confident it will, extension forage specialist Sid Bosworth and associates will demonstrate making hay in a day using the latest hay-making technology.

Dr. Richard Adams, dairy nutritionist, and his staff will be front and center too, with Penn States' new NIRS Van and equipment to run a forage analysis on a wide range of forages and to help you with your feed formulation recommendations.

And there's more. Dr. Charles

Gardner, a well-known veterinarian, will be on hand both morning and afternoon to lead discussions on forage quality and herd breeding, while at 7 p.m. Wednesday eve., Dr. Scott McAllister DVM, will consider health and pasture management for horses. These are discussions that you will want to hear.

No forage field day would be a success without the support of our forage-related industry friends. And some 25 commercial exhibitors will be present to share their product line and thoughts with you on how to make your forage program more profitable in the years ahead.

Lunch, supper and refreshments will be available on the grounds. So load up your family and neighbors and head for Hershey for a worthwhile and enjoyable day.

For the records, the Pennsylvania Forage and Grassland Council — its motto "Industry, Farmer, Scientist-Working Together Toward a Sounder Grassland, program" — is dedicated to the profitable production and utilization of quality forage and grassland. Organized in 1959 with yours truly as its first president, ours was the first state council of its kind in the U.S. Today there are more than 30 such councils in the U.S. and Canada with others on the way. And while its membership totals nearly 400, we still have room for lots more members.

So when you come to Hershey on July 19, and we hope you do, if you're not already a PFGC member, bring along an extra \$5 and join up. The benefits are many and you'll find it's by far the best bargain in town.

Measure Proposes Ag Education From Forgiveness

Legislation which would enable higher education students of agriculture to have up to \$10,000 in college loans forgiven has been introduced in the state House, according to Rep. John Barley (R-100).

The measure (House Bill 899) would allow portions of guaranteed student loans (GSLs) administered by the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency to be forgiven when recipients work full time on any family farm. The program would allow the forgiveness of \$2,500 of a GSL for each year in which the recipient works on a family farm.

The proposal is modeled after similar laws enacted to encourage students to enter career fields where demand is high, but supply is low. For instance, education students who agree to teach a certain number of years of math or science in Pennsylvania public schools can have their loans forgiven. This measure is designed to deal with the problem of dwindling numbers of farmers in the

state.

While the idea behind this measure has merit, some of the details of the legislation need greater attention and, perhaps, amendment.

First, the measure does not specifically require that the family farm be in Pennsylvania. While we may be sympathetic to the dwindling numbers of family farms nationwide, we need to ensure that state funds target the problem in Pennsylvania.

The issue of funds brings up the second major concern with this legislation. As currently proposed, this program would allow participants to obtain full advantage by working on a family farm for only four years. It would also be very expensive to fund at a rate of \$2,500 per student per year.

The bill could be improved by amending both the funding and timing provisions so that, say, 10 percent of the amount of a student loan could be forgiven for each year of work on a family farm. That would also encourage longer-term work on family farms.

FORAGE/LIVESTOCK DAY
 I can't help it. I must devote this column to a special event that I hope several hundred of those reading it will want to attend. The event, of course, is our 1989 Forage/Livestock Day sponsored by the Pennsylvania Forage and Grassland Council and scheduled for Wednesday, July 19 at Milton Hershey School Farms, Hershey, Pa.

first was held back in 1960 when PFGC teamed up with the American Grassland Council and Penn State University, along with Milton Hershey School Farms, to put on the First National Grassland Field Day. Since then we've seen several other regional, state and national events at Hershey. And with excellent cooperation and support from the Hershey Farms team, along with many others, every one has been a success.

This year's field day should be no different. Promoted as a forage/

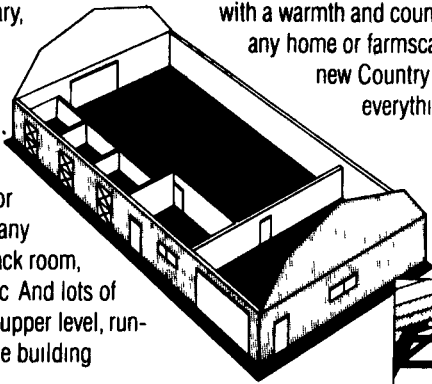


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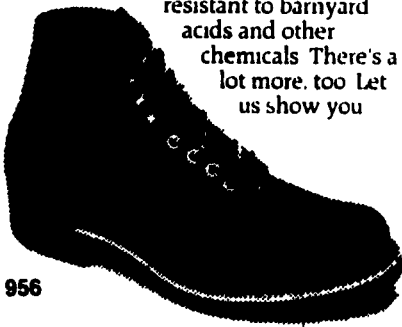
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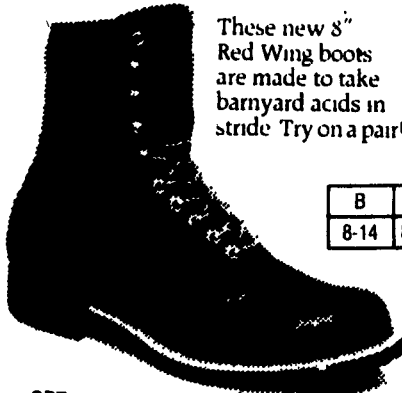


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