

# Herdsman Of The Future

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Should he seed the pasture with tetraploid rye? Mixed rye and orchard grass? Perhaps a little fescue?

According to Penn State University researchers who gave a tour of their ongoing dairy forage experiments during Ag Progress Days Wednesday, the promise of

using pasture to provide a substantial portion of feed for high producing dairy herds is looming in the near future.

In fact, in this issue of *Lancaster Farming*, an article on budgeting feed to improve grazing management by Warren Parker, a researcher on loan from New Zealand, and Penn State staff research-

ers Lawrence Muller and Steven Fales, is a direct result of efforts to determine methods of getting the most benefit out of a pasture with the least amount of effort.

As it is, the economics of using specially planted and monitored paddocks to augment traditional grain and silage diet is still in question.

But, because of experiments conducted within the last several years, indications are good that pasture management will only become more efficient and more widely practiced.

The types of research going on with respect to pastures all center around the larger research with deals with the basics of using pastures to feed cattle, and the nutrient value and digestibility of the forages provided.

That larger research serves as the hub of many smaller satellite projects — just as many specific questions arise when a broad question is asked, the course of scientific endeavors follows a similar pattern.

Ron Hoover, a senior research aide who led one group of Ag Progress tour-goers, is involved with variety trials with pasture forages.

The purpose is to attempt to discover which forage cows select over other, which are highest in nutrient value and which produce the most feed volume.

"Some farmers out there know what they're doing with pasture forages, but many are asking about new technologies for fencing,

management . . . being imported from New Zealand, Great Britain, and others," he said.

So in order to attempt to see the applicability of these feeding techniques which have been developed

in climatically different areas of the world, Penn State researchers began their own trials.

Scientists have gone abroad to study the techniques and learned

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Ron Hoover shows a bolus that releases a chemical "label" on forage in the cow's rumen so that researchers can determine the amount of digestibility of certain pasture forages. Unfortunately, this one was just ejected by a cow, temporarily disqualifying results from testing her manure.



Ron Hoover shows a mechanism for testing volume of forage. Used in conjunction with other methods to determine pasture forage density, the device helps researchers more accurately measure the amount of forage and dry matter offered by a pasture.

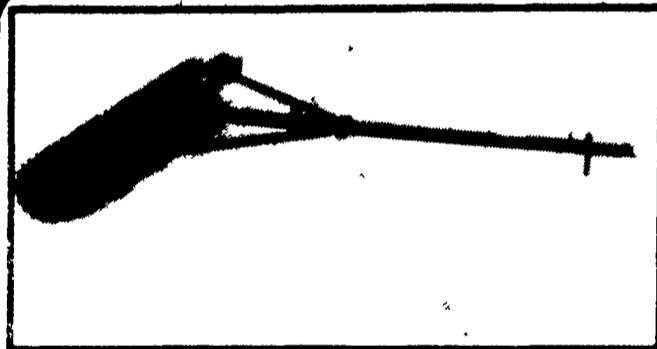
ROLLING ON...IN THE 90's



MEETS THE CHALLENGE

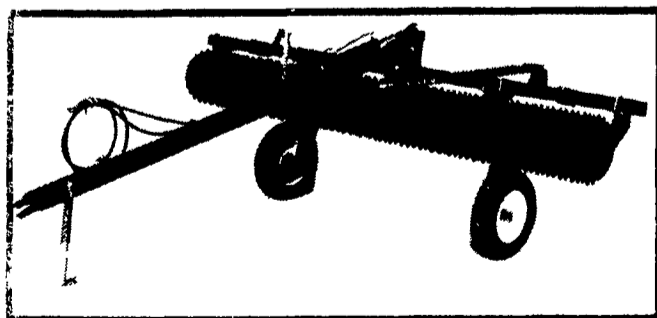
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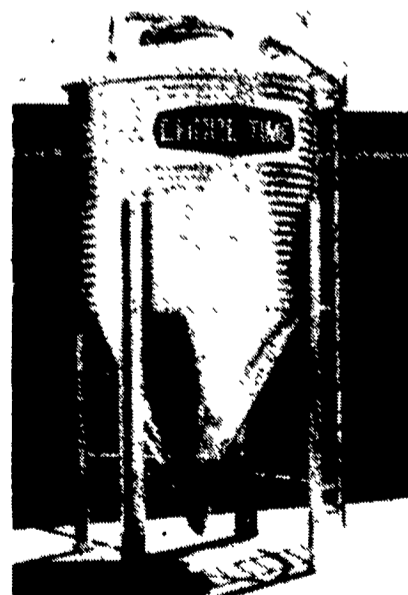
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