

# Foraging Around



**By Dr. John E. Baylor**  
Forage Specialist (Retired)  
Penn State University

### SOME GRASS GRAZING CONSIDERATIONS

I recently returned from the 1992 Forage Conference in Grand Rapids, MI sponsored by the American Forage and Grassland Council, Michigan State University and the Michigan Hay and Forage Council. Thus, in this month's

column I've opted to share with you the results of two studies reported at the conference on grazing studies in the eastern U.S. These findings won't be entirely new to you, but they should be of interest and may give you a little more food for thought.

### Controlled Grazing For Dairy Cows

First, let's turn to a practical economical study on grazing in Northern Michigan. Over the past several years the practice of controlled grazing for dairy cows to cut down on production costs has caught on for more and more dairymen. Last year in northern Michigan researchers worked closely with four dairymen to gather some hard dollars and cents facts on controlled grazing. Milking herds for the dairymen ranged in size from 35 to 63 cows.

In brief, here is what they reported. Actual dollar savings for the four dairymen ranged between \$8,200 to over \$15,000 during the grazing season, or a savings of about \$2 per hundred weight of milk produced. Forage analyses of pastures averaged 24% C.P. and .74 megacal for the grazing season.

Controlled grazing, these dairymen said, resulted in higher quality feed for the animals and less

stress on time and machinery, further resulting in better cow health and, in general, a better way of life. And all four dairymen plan to continue the practice and probably expand their grazing systems in the future as they get more experience.

When you look at time, depreciation, interest, and capitol cost of equipment, the researchers concluded, its no wonder that controlled grazing is catching on throughout the country.

### Production And Quality Of Selected Cool-Season Grasses

But the maximum benefits of controlled or intensive grazing can be attained only by using the best pasture grasses. And, studying the responses of several grass species and varieties has been the object of one on-going research study at Penn State University. Researchers there have been evaluating fifteen varieties of three cool-season grass species-- orchardgrass,

perennial ryegrass, and tall fescue for production and forage quality under intensive rotation grazing by dairy cows.

After two years of observations these researchers have determined that, while non-productive under drought conditions, the tetraploid ryegrasses were highest in quality, showing consistently about five percentage units higher digestibility than orchardgrass. But, surprisingly perhaps, despite its lower nutritional value, orchardgrass appeared to be preferred by the cows, probably due, the researchers believed, to the fact that cows in the study were more familiar with its texture and taste. Next in order of preference, they found, were the tetraploid ryegrasses, diploid ryegrasses, and finally the tall fescues.

As indicated, this is an on-going study and will continue. It does indicate, however, the differences in growth characteristics of both grass species and varieties within species--and the potential of some of the newer grass varieties under grazing conditions.

# Pressure Washer Clearance Sale

## Save 25%-50% On Selected Models

### \* Hot Water Pressure Washers

PORTOTECHNIA MODEL 1000M  
1000 psi. 2.2 gpm, 115v port Reg. \$2430.00  
**NOW \$1,215.00**

PORTOTECHNIA MODEL 1500M  
1500 psi 2.2 gpm 220v port Reg. \$2890.00  
**NOW \$1,445.00**

KARCHER MODEL HDS550C  
1000 psi 2.4 gpm 115v port. Reg. \$2765.00  
**NOW \$1,935.00**

KARCHER MODEL HDS 955  
3000 psi 3.2 gpm 220v port. Reg. \$4,695.00  
**NOW \$2,885.00**

### \* Hot Water Skid Mount

AALADIN STAINLESS STEEL  
2000 psi 4 gpm gas engine 9 HP  
VANGUARD w/ELECT START Reg. \$5345.00  
**NOW \$3,995.00**

AALADIN STAINLESS STEEL  
3000 psi 5 gpm Diesel Engine 14 HP  
KUBOTA w/ELECT START Reg. \$10,670.00  
**NOW \$7,495.00**

### \* LP Gas Hot Pressure Washers

AALADIN STAINLESS STEEL  
1000 psi 2.2 gpm 115v port.  
w/40# tank & regulator Reg. \$4,195.00  
**NOW \$2,595.00**

AALADIN STAINLESS STEEL  
1500 psi 3.5 gpm 5 HP HONDA  
w/40# tank & regulator Reg. \$4,295.00  
**NOW \$2,695.00**

### \* Limited Quantities

**Many Other Models On Sale**

### \* Cold Water Pressure Washer

KARCHER MODEL K355  
700 psi 2.0 gpm 115v Reg. \$440.00  
**NOW \$299.00**

KARCHER MODEL K580  
1000 psi. 2.0 gpm 115v Reg. \$610.00  
**NOW \$399.00**

KARCHER MODEL K600  
1200 psi 2.0 gpm 115v Reg. \$695.00  
**NOW \$499.00**

KARCHER MODEL K750  
1500 psi 3 gpm 220v port Reg. \$1,395.00  
**NOW \$695.00**

KARCHER MODEL HD850  
2000 psi 3.0 gpm 220v port Reg. \$1,695.00  
**NOW \$1,095.00**

### \* Gas Engine Pressure Washers

KARCHER MODEL 575B  
1200 psi 2.4 gpm 3.5 HP KAWASAKI  
Reg. \$1,265.00  
**NOW \$695.00**

KARCHER MODEL HD950BR  
2500psi 3.5 gpm 9 HP  
VANGUARD w/AUTO IDLE Reg. \$2,450.00  
**NOW \$1,495.00**

KARCHER MODEL HD 1050BR  
2800 psi 4.4 gpm 11 HP  
HONDA w/AUTO IDLE Reg. \$2,695.00  
**NOW \$1,695.00**

MI-T-M MODEL CW2504  
2500 psi 4.0 gpm 11 HP  
WISCONSIN ROBIN Reg. \$2,695.00  
**NOW \$1,795.00**

MI-T-M MODEL CW3504  
3500 psi 4.0 gpm 16 HP  
BRIGGS IC w/ELECT START Reg. \$3,895.00  
**NOW \$2,595.00**



**I'M NOT LION...**

**THE CLASSIFIED LIVESTOCK SECTION HAS BEASTLY SELECTIONS!**

Joseph C. Pepper  
Estate Counselor

Jeffrey C. Kitzmiller  
Estate Counselor

• Business Insurance • Estate Planning

*John Hancock*  
Financial Services

Post Office Box 4154 2595 Interstate Drive  
Harrisburg, PA 17111

(717) 657-2263 (717) 273-4001

**ATTENTION VEGETABLE GROWERS**  
We Specialize In Vegetable Growing Supplies And Equipment

**Ask For Our Price Sheet For Listings Of Equipment & Supplies**

- Raised and Flatbed Layers
- Mulch Planters
- Mulch Lifters
- Aluminum Conveyors
- Packing Lines
- Honda-Powered Pumps
- Zon LP Gas Cannon
- Agryl P17 Floating Row Cover
- Greenhouse Supplies
- Plastic Mulch
- Drip Irrigation
- Plastic Harvesting Containers



**WATER WHEEL PLANTER**

- 125 or 150 gallon
- 24 Tray Capacity
- 3 pt. or pull-type

# KOCHEL EQUIPMENT CO.

Rt. 23

Elverson, PA 19520

215-286-5519 PA 1-800-922-9680

★ ★ ★ MAY SALE ★ ★ ★

**BERRIGARD STRAWBERRY BOXES**  
gts. \$14.50 Pts. \$19.75

**NOLTS PRODUCE SUPPLIES**

182 N. Hershey Ave. • Leesha, Pennsylvania 17540  
(717) 656-2764