

Forage Conference Awards

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Then in the spring of 1992, Rodgers overseeded with clovers to increase the amount of legume and thus quality of the pastures.

In addition to the milking herd, Rodgers has 37 replacement animals (three months old or older) which also use pasture for their forage needs.

One of the major goals on Plum Bottom Farm during the next few years is to match the number of paddocks more closely with the animal numbers. Rodgers hopes to accomplish this by converting some "row-crop" land into pasture. Rodgers is also involved in many community organization as well as the PFGC and AFGC.

• Northeast region: Bill Chamberlain (Tioga County): The recipient of the Outstanding Pasture Producer Award for the northeast region of Pennsylvania is Bill Chamberlain of Tioga Co. Chamberlain utilizes pastures extensively as a forage source for his dairy herd of 51 cows with a 18,937 RHA and 30 replacement heifers. The herd is rotationally grazed from late April until October. His pasture consist of 39 acres of improved pasture which serves as the main pasture area and 29 acres of native pasture ground. Chamberlain has been rotationally grazing pasture for the past four years. He has added paddocks from hay fields as well as from the hillsides.

Now finished with his fourth year of grazing, Chamberlain was impressed with how clovers have started to establish in his pastures. In addition, he has been constantly improving his system with new

fencing materials and a water system.

A few years ago, he was concerned with producing more hay so that he could increase his herd. Now that he has been grazing, he has his barns full and is considering doubling the herd size, all of this without increasing acreage.

Chamberlain has also been a willing communicator regarding pastures by holding pasture meetings on his farm and working with others interested in benefits of grazing.

• Capital region: Melvin Marks (York County): Melvin Marks implemented a rotational grazing system on his 46-cow dairy farm in York County only recently. However, he didn't enter into it blindly. Marks attended seminars and did a lot of reading before he made his final plans.

He and his wife, Barb, committed 29 acres to pasture and seeded it to birdsfoot trefoil, ladino clover, and perennial ryegrass. While this area was being established, they grazed established alfalfa-orchardgrass hay fields.

He plans to continue installing a water system so that water will be available in each paddock. Although the system is relatively new and still being scrutinized by others in the area, Marks has not seen a drop in milk production. In fact, his herd average has steadily increased since beginning to rotationally pasture.

While more work is to be done and some changes are needed, the system has surpassed his expectations by far.

Ephrata Young Farmers Support Library



EPHRATA (Lancaster Co.) — An early Christmas present came in the form of a \$1,000 check presented in support of the to-be-constructed Ephrata Public Library by the Ephrata Area Young and Adult Farmers Association (EAYFA) on Thursday.

Presenting the check is Nevin Horning, president of EAYFA, second from right, to Jennifer Raimo, library director. In picture from left, Nancy Barshinger, president of the library board of directors; Raimo; Horning; and Charles Ackley, EAYFA advisor and ag teacher.

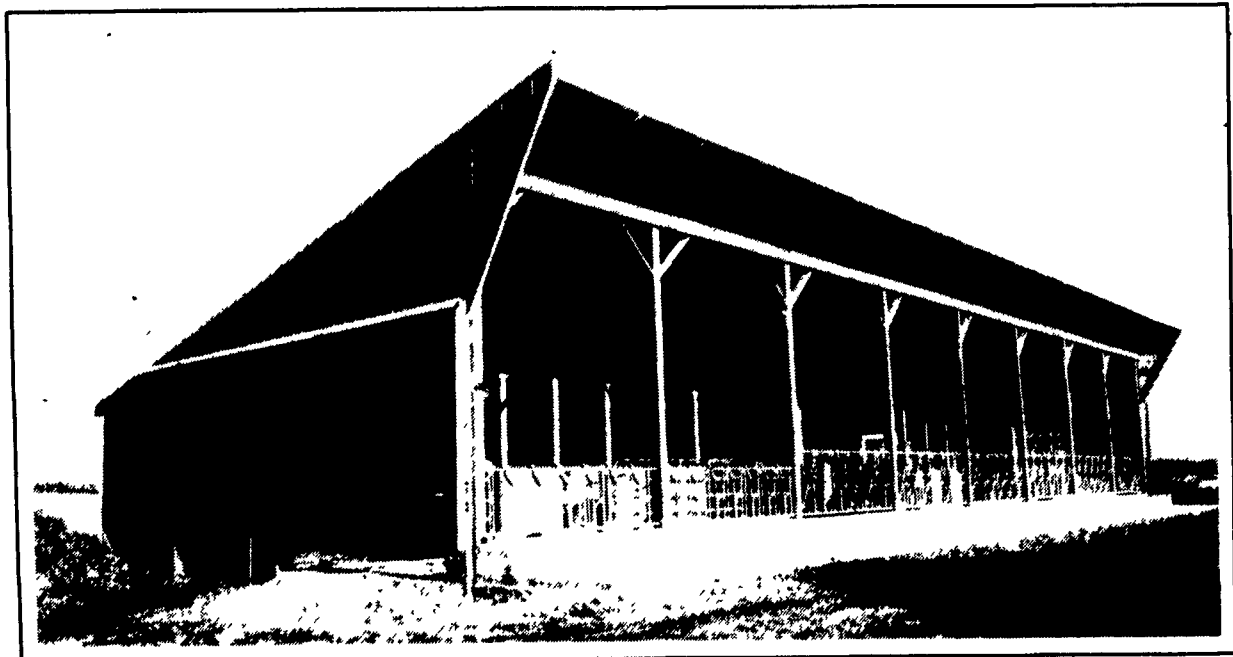
"The Ephrata Area School District adult farmer group recognizes the growth of the area and the need for a new library facility," said Ackley. "Their contribution adds significantly toward the goal of \$1.5 million toward the construction of the new library on South Reading Road."

Ackley said the EAYFA "is very interested in supporting community service activities and agricultural education." The group raises money for these projects by operating a food stand in Tent City during the Ephrata Fair.

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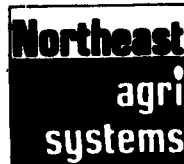
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