

Groff Tomato Farm

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Growing an earlier variety can literally prove fruitful, according to Groff. He said just coming onto market two weeks earlier can mean a tripling or even quadrupling in price.

Also, Groff uses a staggered planting schedule to extend the productive growing season throughout the year. "This year we're trying to time our planting so we have a good spot in the beginning of the season, enough in the middle of the season just to supply regular customers, and then a good bit in the end," he said. That way, "the price is good in the beginning and the price is good in the end."

Kept profitable

Remaining diverse has kept the farm profitable through the years. Throughout the off-season, they raise about 45 head of finishing steer, which they sell at the Lancaster Stockyards auction.

In addition to the tomato and steer crop, a large part of the opera-

tion is the baled hay (70 acres in all, about 50 acres of straight alfalfa and the rest, grass mixes). Also, they harvest about 75 acres of corn (they'll sell about 100 tons of ear corn in the Lancaster County region and keep the remainder to feed the steers).

Also, Groff plants about 15 acres of small grains and soybeans (the beans are used as 1/2 cash crop and the rest as feed for the steers).

But Groff was quick to point out that a great deal of success comes from the hired labor, which includes Mark Stauffer, a part-time worker.

The seasonal workers also have contributed a great deal, according to Groff.

"We've done OK because of our relationship with the Puerto Ricans," said Groff. "We know them and they come to help us."

Groff lives on the farm with his wife, Cheri, whom he met seven years ago while attending winter Bible school in Ohio, and daughter Dana, 13 months.

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — A seminar on the importance of pasture management in dairy feeding programs will be held 9:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. May 19 at the Capital Campus, Penn State University.

Several speakers will discuss various aspects of pasture management. Steve Fales, associate professor of crop management at Penn State, will discuss the use of pasture in the dairy industry. Steve Ford, assistant professor of agricultural economics at Penn State, will discuss the economics of pasture systems. Dr. Harold Harpster, associate professor of animal science at Penn State, will talk on how the plant/animal relationship affects pasture management. Ed Rayburn, forage agronomist for cooperative extension in West Virginia, will speak about nutri-

Penn State Sets Pasture Workshop

ents from pastures and their limitations for dairy cattle. Dr. Larry Muller, professor of dairy science at Penn State, will present a program on meeting nutrient needs of dairy cattle through supplementation strategies.

A tour of the Tom Williams dairy farm is scheduled for late afternoon. Williams grazes 125 Jerseys on 75 acres of permanent and temporary pasture. Participants will observe how he uses pasture and supplemental feed to ensure his cows receive the maximum amount of nutrients.

Program sponsors are Penn State University, Penn State Co-

operative Extension, and USDA, Soil Conservation Service.

Dairy nutritionists and veterinarians who help dairy farmers develop feed rations are encouraged to attend.

The cost for the workshop is \$25, which includes lunch, refreshments, and a copy of the proceedings. On-site registration will be held from 9:15 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

For more information, contact your county cooperative extension office or Duane Pysker, grassland management specialist for Soil Conservation Service in Harrisburg, at (717) 782-4458.

Hatfield Awards Scholarship

ALFRED, N.Y. — A Silver Springs resident majoring in agricultural business at State University of New York College of Technology at Alfred is the winner of a \$1,000 scholarship from the Hatfield Packing Co.

He is Jonah Broughton, son of Kathleen and Merritt Broughton III of 3853 Silver Springs Road

and a 1992 graduate of Letchworth Central School.

Broughton was cited at the college's ninth annual Honors Convocation May 2.

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