

Crop Expo Features Round Bale Silage Demonstration, Tours

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Bradford Co. Correspondent
LACEYVILLE (Bradford Co.) — The first of two Penn State Crop Expo's 93 was held July 7th 1993 at Champdale Farm, owned by Tom Champ-luvier, located in Laceyville, Bradford County. The goal of the Crop Expo is to help add to the knowledge of the attending farmers in growing field crops. The Expo is an accumulation of educational demonstrations and exhibits that were prepared by the agronomy specialists from Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences and the County Extension Agents.

The Expo started at 9:00 a.m., with activities continuing throughout the day. Three tours were conducted, starting at different times throughout the day, along with a round bale silage demonstration held in the afternoon.

Tour A was the first tour of the morning, starting with a discussion by Marvin Hall, Penn State Extension Agent, on the various forage species and varieties, and annual forage crops. Several varieties of alfalfa were planted in plots for comparison with other perennial forage that may be more productive and last longer, under environmental conditions that are not ideal for alfalfa. The plots were planted with red clover, birdsfoot trefoil, orchardgrass, smooth brome-grass, prairiegrass, tall fescue, perennial ryegrass, reed canarygrass, and timothy. In Northeastern Pennsylvania, alfalfa may not find the best conditions to grow, deep, well drained, and high pH and fertility soil. If proper conditions are not available, another type of forage should be considered. There were 12 plots of annual

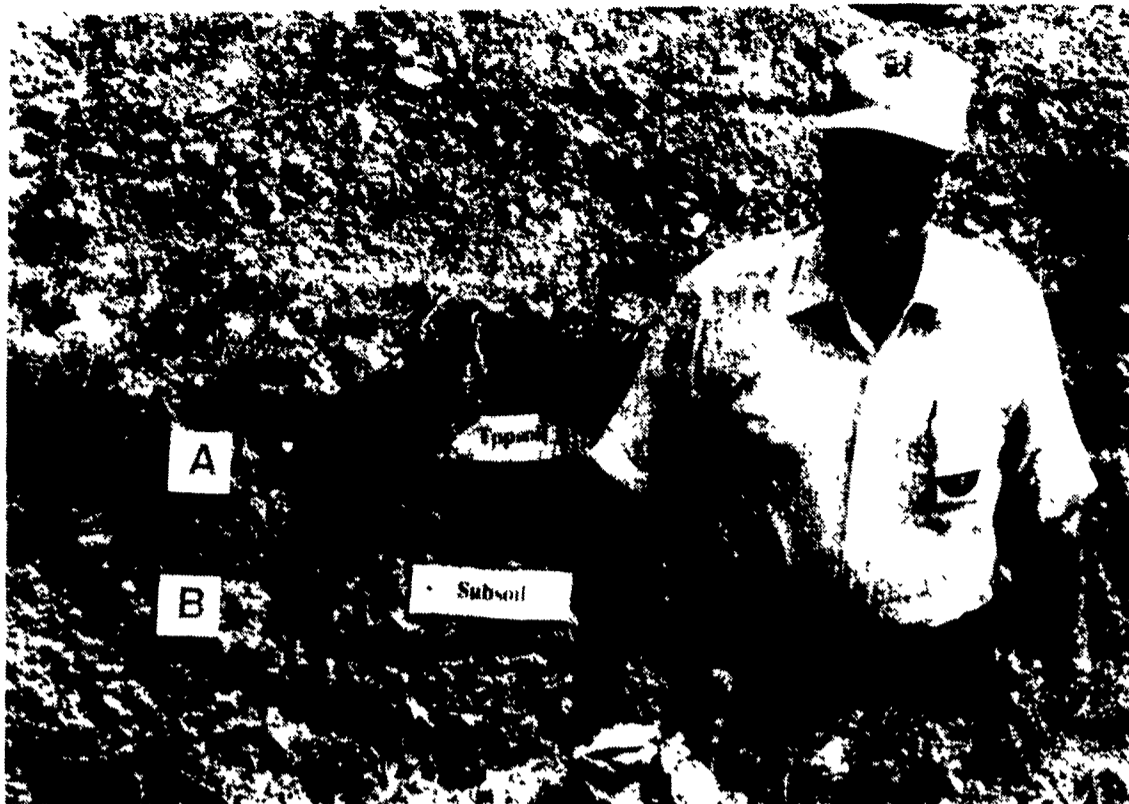
forage to be compared, 6 brassica species, and 6 summer-annual grasses. These grasses have become important because of increased grazing, and they grow under adverse conditions.

Scott Harkin from Penn State discussed managing cool season grasses, how you manage the grasses may depend on what your feeding, and if your goal is to provide high quality forage, harvest according to maturity and cut frequently.

Penn States' Ray Shipp explained the soil pit that was dug on the farm to show the different layers of soil. Each natural layer of soil was discussed, showing the depth and drainage ability of each layer, and how it relates to the soils' productivity and which crops it would be suitable for. Mr. Shipp explained that you must match the crops to the soil type.

Lynn Hoffman, another of Penn States Alumni, talked about Legumes in Pasture, showing an example of a pasture that had been planted with alfalfa and birdsfoot trefoil. Proper pasture management is required for this type of pasture, if the legumes are eaten down, the grasses will again take over the pasture. If cattle are turned out on this type of pasture hungry, there is a possibility of bloat, from ingesting too much legume at one time.

In conjunction with pasturing of animals, a demonstration on the different types of fencing was presented by Tom Calvert, from the Soil Conservation Service. He demonstrated the various types of fencing available for total pasture management. Dwayne Pyser also added to the discussion, and the need for rotation grazing.



Ray Shipp, Penn State, shows ground composition.

A demonstration of different types of watering systems was shown by Wayne Ray, of Endless Mountains Resource Conservation and Development. Shown was hydraulic ram pumps, solar panels, watering troughs, quick connect couplings, submersible pumps, and self serving pasture pumps.

The last speaker on Tour A was Bill Curran, also from Penn State, with a look at Multiflora Rose control. The pasture that was used as a model, had a fall treatment of different herbicides, including Ally, Crossbow, Roundup, and Spike. The area that was treated in the fall was compared to an area that had a spring application.

Tour B started with Marvin Hall discussing alfalfa seeding and Ridomil for alfalfa

establishment.

The alfalfa seeding rate can vary up to 18 lbs per acre. Penn State currently recommends 15 to 18 lbs. per acre for band seeding alfalfa, this study may lead to reducing the seeding rate in the future. The study was made in 5 different counties, Lancaster, York, Lycoming, Centre, and Bradford, with alfalfa seed that was pretreated with Apron, with seeding times in June, and October, the first year, and May the second year. The density of the alfalfa stand increased considerable as the amount of pounds per acre increased, in June of the first year. In October, the increase was not as dramatic, and in May of the following year, the increase was only slight as the pounds per acre increased.

Ridomil fungicide is used to

control Pythium and Phytophthora fungi, which attacks seedling alfalfa. Both Pythium and Phytophthora fungi are found in the soil in Pennsylvania. They can be controlled with a seed treatment of Apron. There may be a yield increase using Ridomil where Phytophthora is present, but it is not recommended to apply Ridomil at seeding in alfalfa fields in Pennsylvania. Studies were done on the effect of Ridomil at seeding. The Ridomil was applied at 1 pint per acre, with the results being made in four weeks and measured by the amount of seedlings per square foot. The treated crop was from .1 to 7.1 higher than untreated crops. It was also found that there was no interactions between seeding rate and Ridomil.

102 Animals Exhibited At Beef Jackpot Show

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Somerset Co. Correspondent
MEYERSDALE (Somerset Co.) — Some 90 exhibitors showed 102 animals during the annual Beef Jackpot Show held on July 11 at the county fairgrounds. Besides Pa. they came from Ohio, New Jersey, Maryland, West Virginia and Virginia.

The grand champion steer belonged to Justin Fuls, 10, from Berlin, who was also named the grand champion exhibitor.

His parents are Kevin and Karen Fuls who relocated to Somerset Co. from Cumberland Co. earlier in 1992. Fuls has two siblings, belongs to the High Ridge 4-H club, and goes to school at Berlin-Brothersvalley.

Reserve grand champion was shown by Troy Rieboldt from College Station, Ohio.

Angie Livengood, 14, was the county reserve champion exhibitor. The oldest child of Dave and Rose Livengood, Angie has a brother and a sister. Her 4-H club is Steaks and Chops. Next fall she enters the 9th grade at Somerset Area High School.

Sixteen-year-old Tim Bishop, Homer City (Indiana Co.), had the Club Calf Sale champion which was purchased from Wayne Miller, Fairhope RD. Jason Knotts, Hyndman had the reserve champion.

Kent Carrouthers, Coggan,

Iowa, left behind him the horrid flooding of the Mississippi River to come here and judge the event, one of more than 15 he does annually.

He was full of praise. "I'm truly impressed with the quality of cattle," he said. "They are even better than last year. They are long-loined," he said, adding, "These cattle could go anywhere in the United States, they are that good."

He remarked that, if it were possible, he would like to take a

few along back to Iowa to his own farm.

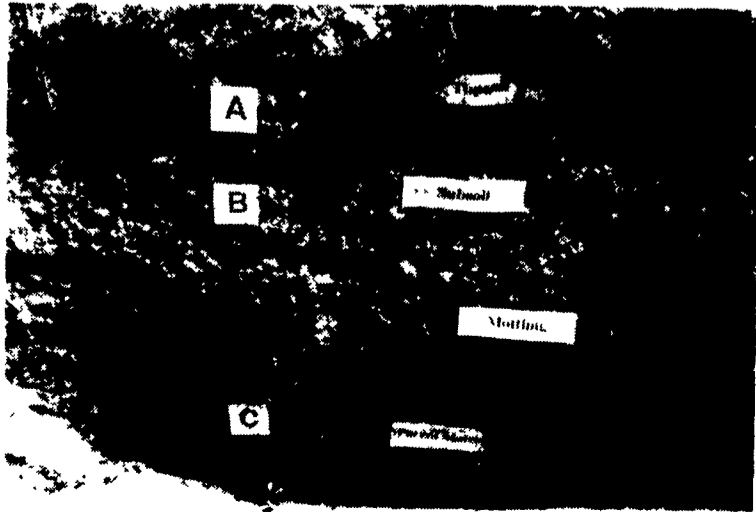
Carrouthers also gave high marks to all kids who take the responsibility of having a 4-H animal project. "The greatest kids I've ever known have shown animals," he said.

The Somerset Co. Beef Jackpot Show is sponsored by the Somerset Co. Beef Producers and the Pa. Cattlemen's Asso.

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Marvin Hall checks interior of bale with gauge.



Soil pit dug on Champdale Farm shows the soil layers.



Justin Fuls, right, showed the grand champion steer at the Somerset Co. Beef Jackpot Show held on July 11 at the county fairgrounds in Meyersdale. With him is the show judge Kent Carrouthers from Coggan, Iowa.