

American Forage/Grassland Council To Celebrate 50th Anniversary

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World War II was in full swing. During the previous decade the U.S. had gone through a major economic depression and a devastating drought. The demands on U.S. agriculture to produce more food and feed, and at a lower cost, was never greater. This was the setting in 1942 as several agriculture experiment station workers at a meeting in New Jersey considered the challenges before them. One possibility, they believed, was to form an organization consisting of individuals in agricultural research and agricultural industry who were interested in the potentials of grassland farming "as a fundamental thesis in the economic welfare of agriculture and our country."

It took time for the idea to gel. Over the next two years, and with much deliberation, it was agreed that if a group of interested leaders in agricultural research, the farm press, farm equipment manufacturers and the makers of farm facilities could put together the factual data already available and continue to generate new data through research, grassland farming could vastly lower the costs and increase the production of agriculture. Then at a meeting in Cleveland, Ohio, in July 1944, as a result of the earlier discussions, the Joint Committee on Grassland Farming (JCGF) was born. Its mission was to coordinate research in the production, methods, equipment, facilities, preservation and utilization of forage crops.

One of the early objectives of JCGF was to serve as a central clearing house in the gathering of data on all aspects of grassland

agriculture and "to release and disseminate clear information to the farm public on proven methods for the economic handling of all kinds of forage crops." Another was to assist industry in the development of equipment for producing, processing, handling and storing of forage crops on various sized farms.

During the mid-to-late 40s published information on grassland farming was scarce. But the need was great. Thus, during the first decade of its existence a major thrust of the young organization was to collect, analyze, and organize data for publication in a form that could be used by producers. And by 1947 its first publication *Green Fields Are Gold* came off the press. Over the next several years more than one quarter million copies were printed and distributed. By 1955 three other publications, *The Grassland-Livestock Handbook*, *The Dollars and Cents of Grass Silage*, and *Grasslands of the United States and Their Improvement* were developed and released with a total of over 2 million copies distributed.

In 1957, after years of study, the committee was reorganized, its by-laws revised and its name officially changed to the American Grassland Council (AGC). And ten years later in 1968, with broader programs and a changing image the organization again changed its name to better describe its over-all purpose. Its new name, and the one it still carries; the American Forage and Grassland Council (AFGC).

Prior to 1960 the Council was a small nationwide organization made up primarily of dedicated grasslanders in both the public and industry sectors. In 1960, howev-

er, the Pennsylvania Grassland Council was formed, the first state council organized in the U.S. Its motto "Industry, Farmer, Scientist — Working Together for a Sounder Grassland Program." The Pennsylvania council affiliated with

the American Grassland Council in 1963 and, thus, producers became an important part of AGC. By 1993, 33 states or provincial councils had affiliated with the American Forage and Grassland Council with a total mem-

bership approaching 6,000.

AFGC's Golden Anniversary Conference will be held March 7-9, 1994 at the Lancaster Host Resort, Lancaster, Pa. This three-day event is expected to attract several hundred grasslands, both public and industry, including many producers, from throughout the U.S. and Canada. The program will include a full day **Producer Day** on Monday, March 7, with Dean Kleckner, President of the American Farm Bureau, as the keynote speaker along with a Forage Spokesman's program including outstanding producers from throughout the U.S. The Tuesday and Wednesday schedules include scientific and applied presenta-

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AFGC: A Golden Opportunity, '94 REGISTRATION Lancaster, Pennsylvania - March 7-9, 1994

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

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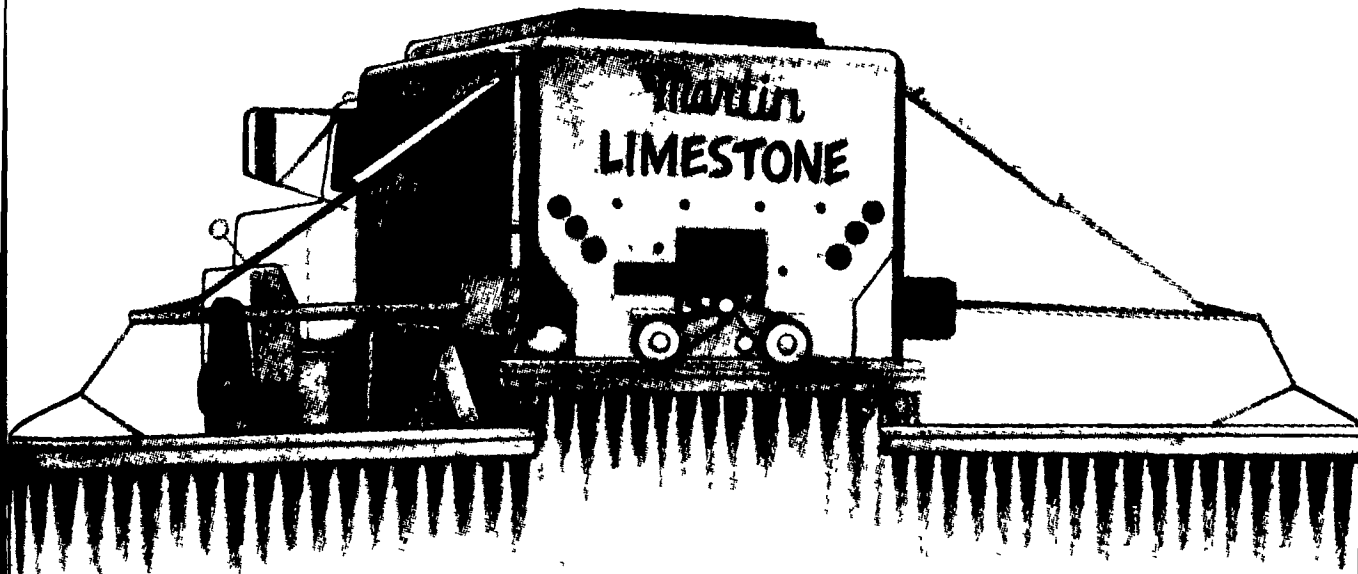
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Registration	Check one	Registration Category		
		Full	One day*	Spouse
Monday, March 7		\$85	\$30	\$35
Lunch	\$14	—	—	—
Spouse Tour	\$15	—	—	—
Tuesday, March 8				
Affiliate Council Breakfast	\$10	—	—	—
Spouse Tour (until 12:00 noon)	\$12	—	—	—
Professional Tour (Lunch inc.)	\$25	—	—	—
Pennsylvania Night	\$10	inc.	—	inc.
Wednesday, March 9				
Industry Breakfast	\$10	—	—	—
Spouse Tour	\$17	—	—	—
Lunch	\$14	—	—	—
Banquet	\$25	—	—	—
Host Family	N.C.	—	—	—
Proceedings	\$17	inc.	—	—
Late Fee (after February 1)	\$15	—	—	—
TOTAL		—	—	—

* Please specify day with one-day registration

Return this form and registration fee to: AFGC 1994 Conference, American Forage and Grassland Council, P.O. Box 94, Georgetown, TX 78627. Please make checks payable in U.S. Funds to: AFGC 1994 Conference.

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