

# Chester County Dairy Milk Lines

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for Lancaster Farming issue August 6, 1994

## Your Pasture -- Green Profits Under Your Feet

Dairy farmers over the years, myself included, have turned their cows into large, lush pastures each spring and watched their milk production increase for a short period of time. After a few weeks, however, the good pasture is all eaten or trampled down and production returns to the former level. The cows have made hogs out of themselves, they won't eat their normal grain ration, and they waste a lot of good feed. This column will address how to use your present pasture more wisely. A complete intensive grazing program for a farm is another topic and will not be covered here.

Here are some steps to consider:

1. Make a sketch of your present pasture, preferably from an aerial photo, and include present fencelines, cow lanes, water sources, and shaded areas.
2. Using this map, sketch new lanes for cows to get to different areas of your pasture. The lanes should avoid very wet areas to prevent future mud holes.
3. Decide how water will be made available to the cows. It may require installing a surface water line along the lane with watering facilities at the

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Over the years, Moyer & Son has carefully measured each stage of its growth to eventually concentrate on three major areas of operations: fertilizer, feed, and fuel. In 1987, the company purchased the Honey Brook Farm Center in Honey Brook, PA which

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As Moyer & Son commemorates its 125th anniversary, we dedicate 1994 to the many loyal friends and customers that have made Moyer & Son the industry and community leader it is today.

Moyer & Son is proud of its company history--and looks forward to another 125-years of "Making Service Personal".

paddocks. If you are planning to use a stream, the cows should be fenced out of the stream and certain stoned access points should be created where the cows can drink without destroying the stream bank.

4. Divide your pasture into paddocks. The size will depend on the number of animals being pastured, but ideally they should be able to graze a paddock in one to two days. If possible, each paddock should have a direct access to the lane. However, a long, narrow series of paddocks can have one access with the cows grazing the nearest one first, and then walking through that one to get to the second and third paddocks. When they have pastured the series, they are removed so that the grass can recover.

5. Can you provide shade for the animals? A grove of trees, trees inside the fenceline along a stream, or a roofed sun shade is needed if cows are going to use the pasture during the day.

6. You may have too much pasture in the spring, so some paddocks can be mowed for hay or silage.

7. You need to constantly monitor and manage the pasture. To get the most benefit from the pasture, walk through the fields daily and determine the best time to open a paddock to the herd and when to change paddocks to avoid overgrazing.

8. Lime, fertilize and clip your pastures. Many times doing these three things will regenerate a pasture and avoid a major reseeding effort.

This approach to using your present pasture wisely does not do away with stored feed use. What it does do is decrease the amount of stored feed that is consumed during the pasture season and allows the dairy farmer to sell extra feed or buy less forage than normal.

Cows were created to eat grass and turn it into milk. The dairy farmer's job is to make it available to the cow as economically as possible.

## Chester County DHIA - July 1994

Cows producing over 800 lbs. protein are:

Name	Breed	Age	Milk	Fat	Pro
Joseph & Sandra Lusby					
Gail	H	3-07	26,868	886	813
Jonas E. Stoltzfus, Jr.					
Rose	H	4-02	24,243	983	817
Marilyn & Duane Hershey					
Apple II	H	3-01	24,007	972	804
Ardrossan Farms					
FG Rose	A	3-04	25,287	1037	845
Merle J. King					
Rivi	H	4-01	25,190	985	823
Gail	H	3-02	24,847	849	832
Walmoore Inc, # 2					
436	H	2-09	26,367	995	840
Dunwood Farm					
Sweet	H	8-04	30,966	1216	919
Chris & Chester Stoltzfus					
Pam	H	6-04	25,533	872	811
Ridge Star Farm					
60	H	4-04	24,571	955	834
Tim & Phyllis Barlow					
Golda	H	6-11	26,529	907	832
Lucy	H	4-11	25,713	954	904

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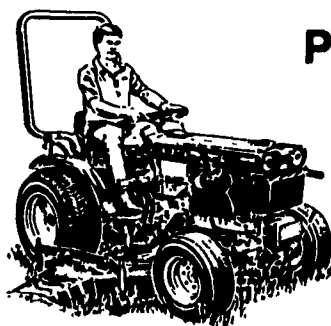
## Annual District Meeting Set

KINGSTON (Westmoreland Co.) — All dairy farmers in the American Dairy Association and Dairy Council's District 19 marketing area, are invited to attend a dinner meeting at the Mifflinburg Community Park on Wednesday, August 31.

Dairy farmers can reserve two free dinners per farm by calling one of the following district committeepeople by August 23: John Walter at (717) 523-6315, Robert Pardoe at (717) 524-7625, Lee Shaffer at (717) 743-8296, or Fred Lovell at (717) 398-3924. Reservations are required.

This important meeting is held to inform dairy producers how their promotion investment benefits the sale of milk. In addition, the new national advertising campaign for milk will be featured. Producers will also have the opportunity to share their views on dairy promotion and elect new officers for their local district.

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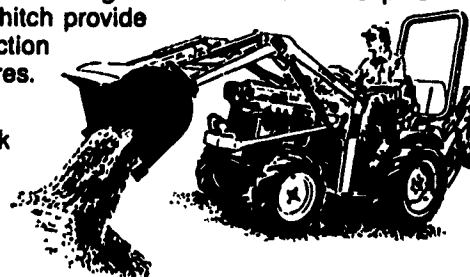
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