

# Madill Joins Dairylea Management

SYRACUSE, NY—Gene Madill has joined Dairylea Cooperative Inc. as chief operating officer announced Rick Smith, Dairylea chief executive officer. This new position has been created to better manage the day-to-day operations of the Cooperative, and enhance the coordination between important business segments—specifically the Milk Sales and Membership areas, explained Smith.

Prior to joining Dairylea, Madill served as chief executive officer and general manager of Penn Quality Meats of Bloomville, N.Y., a processing and marketing organization owned by a veal growers cooperative. In this position, Madill implemented a total restructuring of the organization's member equity program, began a strategic planning process, and decreased operating costs, while building a stable administrative

foundation.

Previously, Madill was general manager of Highland Packaging Labs, Inc. Prior to that, he served in a variety of senior management positions with Johanna Dairies Incorporated and Tuscan Dairy Farms, Inc. for more than seven years. Earlier in his career, Madill held management positions with Eastern Air Lines in the financial and food service divisions.

"Gene Madill's knowledge and management experience will be of substantial value to Dairylea in overseeing and coordinating the dairy activities of our business," said Smith. "With the hectic pace of change that our industry continues to experience, we are fortunate to have Gene's strong, hands-on approach to management which will add a new dimension and bring a more solid cohesion to our vital business segments.

"His diverse insight will also

have a significant, positive impact on the interfacing of our primary business with our insurance, financial services and livestock marketing subsidiaries," said Smith.

Madill, who received a bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of South Florida, has served on various committees of industry and community organizations such as the New Jersey Milk Industry Association, the International Dairy Foods Association, and Bassett Healthcare.

Dairylea is a Syracuse-based dairy cooperative with more than 2,300 member farms throughout the Northeast. It markets a total of 3.5 billion pounds of milk annually and participates and is invested in a milk marketing network stretching from Maine to Maryland to Ohio.

# Naczi Elected Leader Of Member Managers

SYRACUSE, NY—Richard Naczi, executive vice president of the American Dairy Association and Dairy Council, Inc. (ADADC) was recently elected chairperson of the Member Managers Group for Dairy Management, Inc. (DMI). One of the eighteen regional managers, Naczi will head the group that is responsible for providing regionalized input into the national dairy promotion plan.

Naczi said, "The member managers provide a 'reality check' to the national programs. We are closest to regional trends, demographics and dairy farmer perspectives in the marketplace." The group also develops new ideas and more efficient ways to deliver the most cost-effective programs that yield the highest returns to dairy farmers.

In addition to providing input to DMI, the Members Manager Group conducts forums to discuss

common program, staff and structural concerns on the local level. According to Naczi, "This network of member managers provides each of us with new ideas for strengthening our own organizations."

Naczi added, "As the National Dairy Board and United Dairy Industry Association continue to transition into one effective staff, budget and program plan, we will face many challenges. Together with the other regional managers, we hope to make a difference."

Prior to joining ADADC five years ago, Naczi was employed by Milk Promotion Services, Inc., in Montpelier, Vermont, for ten years.

The American Dairy Association and Dairy Council, Inc. is a dairy promotion organization which represents dairy producers from New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

# Pasture Quality: How Good Is It?

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With the increased use of pasture as a major source of nutrients, frequent questions arise about the nutrient composition of pastures. Traditionally, high quality forages have been a key to high milk production in dairy and high rates of gain for beef and sheep operations. High quality forages are also an important part of overall farm profitability. This is true whether we are talking about forages harvested as hay, silage, or pasture. More data is available about the nutrient composition, particularly protein and fiber of stored forages compared to pasture. Very high quality pastures have been reported from forage testing, with protein values occasionally exceeding 30% and ADF about 20%. Thus the question: Pasture Quality—how good is it?

Nutritional quality of pasture like harvested forages is related to the maturity of the forage when harvested. For dairy forages, producers strive to achieve a legume forage with about 20-23% crude protein (CP), 26-30% acid detergent fiber (ADF), 38-42% neutral detergent fiber (NDF), and an NEL of .62-68 Mcal/lb. Grasses harvested as hay or silage would likely be 15-18% CP, 30-35% ADF, and 46-52% NDF with NEL of .58-.62 Mcal/lb. Typically, the ADF content is more closely associated with energy and often is used to calculate NEL content while NDF is associated with intake and rumen health. Smaller data bases for pasture compared with stored forages can mean less accurate values, particularly with energy values.

With good grazing management, grasses harvested by cows will be in vegetative state about 6

to 8 inches tall, depending on the type of grass. Grasses harvested as hay or silage are more mature than when harvested as pasture, thus pasture should be of higher quality than stored forages. Legumes such as clover or alfalfa are usually grazed at an earlier stage of growth than when harvested as stored forage. Therefore, with excellent grazing management we should expect to have higher quality forage when harvested as pasture than when harvested as stored forage.

The quality of pasture will vary depending on many factors including location in the state, temperature, moisture, type of grass and/or legume, and of course grazing management. In Table I are average nutrient composition values for several types and mixtures of high quality pastures. These are average values and

should be used as a guide for providing additional nutrients. Forage testing and monitoring of composition are needed to more closely monitor the supplemental feeding program. The seasonal effect in nutrient composition is illustrated with columns title spring, summer, and fall. For most grasses and grass/legume mixtures, the protein and energy content are higher in the spring and fall and lower during the summer. The nutrient composition of an orchardgrass based pasture during a grazing season from a Penn State study is shown in Figure 1. These results are from well managed pastures that were grazed at a stocking rate of 1.3 cows per acre and had nine grazing rotations. Quality remained high with this well managed pasture where grass was grazed in the vegetative state and should be representative of intensively managed pastures. Crude protein remained above 20% for the entire grazing season. Fiber increased and in vitro dry matter digestibility (IVDMD) decreased during the summer. These results suggest the analysis of pastures perhaps three times per year to coincide with changing seasons may be adequate when pasture availability is not limiting. Keep in mind that forage tests are always subject to errors and good judgement is necessary when interpreting results and developing feeding strategies.

In general, pastures containing some legumes are higher in nutrient value and will likely be consumed in higher amounts than straight grass pastures. The type of grass and the inclusion of legumes will influence the pasture composition. Data from some of our recent studies show that ryegrass is about 4% lower in NDF% than

Often, 70 to 80% of the protein in pasture will be degraded in the rumen whereas the recommended requirement for DIP in the total dairy ration is between 62 and 68% of the total protein. Providing ruminally available carbohydrates, primarily from concentrates but also from other forages, will help animals utilize the high levels of ruminally degraded protein in pastures more effectively. If non structural carbohydrates or energy are lacking in the diet and rumen, the high ruminal DIP in pasture will result in high levels of rumen ammonia which is converted to urea. This urea then appears in blood and milk, with much of it eventually in the urine. Thus, the high DIP in pastures is often wasted by the cow. High levels of urea in blood have been linked to lower reproductive efficiencies and excretion of urea requires energy for the animal to excrete.

Well managed pastures regardless of the plant species can be high in nutrient quality and often exceed the nutrient composition of high quality stored forages. Good grazing management is essential to maintaining pasture quality. Changes in season trigger changes in rate of plant growth and subsequent changes in nutrient composition. The continual changing of pasture quantity and quality during the grazing season provides challenges to producers using a grazing system. Use of available information about forage quality and nutrition can lead to sound grazing and feeding management decisions.

### Grazing Calendar

- June 20, Pasture Walk, Salafordville, PA (610-489-4315)
- June 24, Field Day, Bedford

TABLE 1. AVERAGE NUTRIENT COMPOSITION OF TYPICAL HIGH QUALITY PASTURE

Nutrient	Grass			Mixed Mostly Grass			Mixed Mostly Legumes		
	Spring	Summer	Fall	Spring	Summer	Fall	Spring	Summer	Fall
CP, % of DM	20-22	18-20	20-22	21-23	20-22	22-24	22-24	22-24	23-25
UIP, % of CP <sup>a</sup>	20	30	25	20	30	25	20	30	25
DIP, % of CP <sup>b</sup>	80	70	75	80	70	75	80	70	75
Sol P, % of CP <sup>c</sup>	40	35	40	40	35	40	40	35	40
ADF, % of DM	26-30	30-34	26-30	24-28	28-32	24-28	24-28	28-32	24-28
NDF, % of DM	43-47	48-54	44-48	40-44	45-50	41-45	35-39	40-45	36-40
NFC, % of DM	15-20	15-20	15-20	17-22	17-22	17-22	18-23	18-23	18-23
NE, Mcal/lb	.72-75	.65-68	.70-.73	.73-.77	.68-72	.73-77	.73-77	.68-72	.73-77
Fat, % of DM	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4

<sup>a</sup>Undegradable intake protein  
<sup>b</sup>Degradable intake protein  
<sup>c</sup>Soluble protein

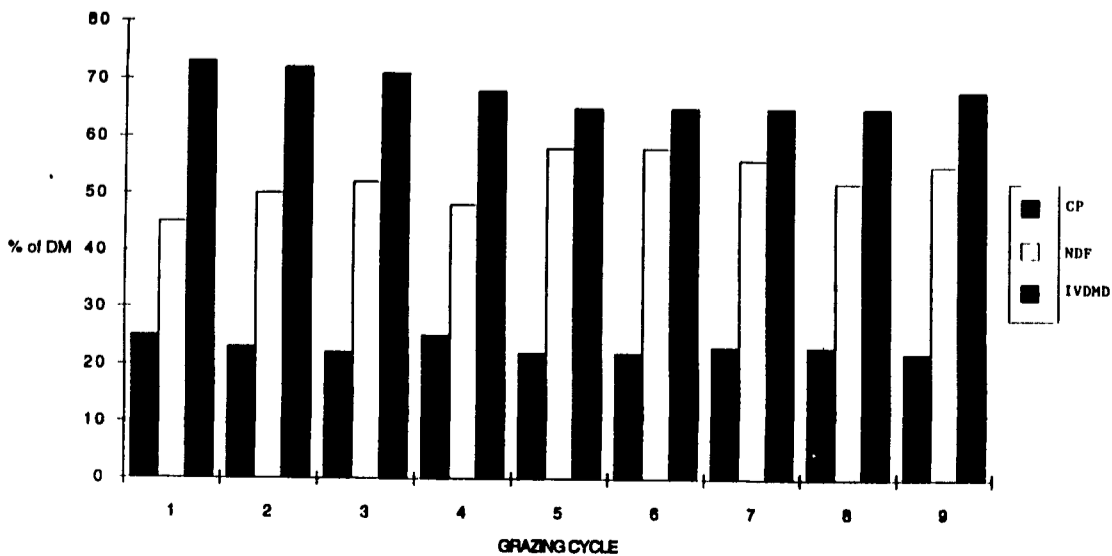


Figure 1. Nutrient composition of orchardgrass based pasture during six month grazing with 9 rotations per paddock.

## Grazing Gazette

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orchardgrass and about 5% higher in IVDMD. Inclusion of alfagrass with either ryegrass or orchardgrass decreased the NDF about 7% with a 4% higher IVDMD compared to just grass pastures. Although the total protein in well managed pastures is high, the protein is high in ruminally degraded intake protein (DIP).

- Co. (814-784-3811)
  - June 28, Pasture Walk, Lehigh Co. (610-391-9840)
  - March 6 and 7 Pennsylvania Grazing Conference (2nd annual)
- Mark your calendars now. Grazing Research and Education Center, 116 Agricultural Sciences and Industries Building, University Park, PA 16802.