

Remain Flexible And Realize Profits With Grazing

(Continued from Page A22)

development. Forgey believes it is important to leave about 3 inches of plant residue to allow for rapid regrowth. The calves are kept in a separate grazing system to provide improved early development.

Gradually, Forgey is adjusting to seasonal dairying. They transitioned the herd to March and April freshening and, with all the calves coming in a two-month period, can run them in one group all the way to freshening.

One successful approach is to feed calves milk in groups of 15 on barrels which have nipples attached to hoses which bring the milk up from the bottom. This seems to eliminate scours. Forgey indicated they have not had a case of scours in two years, raising about 75 calves each year.

This seasonal freshening system allows Forgey to dry the entire herd all at once and have an extended time to do routine maintenance to the milking facility.

Excess forage is harvested from paddocks in May, June, and July in



In April 1992, David Forgey, columnist for Hoard's Dairyman and grass-based seasonal dairyman, began grazing his (now 150 cow) milking herd. Since then, he's sold his TMR mixer and all the regular equipment used in conventional dairying and totally converted his farm to grazing.

the form of dry hay or round bale silage. The bales are triple-wrapped with 2-mil white plastic

and stored outside where they are fed in the non-grazing months.

In grazing, it is important to be careful about mixtures (not to combine red clover and grazing-

type alfalfa). Also, grazing managers should periodically walk the fields to determine when pastures will be ready.

Grazing requires a greater deal of management than conventional, confinement dairying, according to the dairyman. But the rewards in more consistent milk production, less diseases, a healthier cow, and low input costs can pay off if done right.

On Wednesday at the two-day conference, other topics include presentations on what type of watering system is needed, fencing requirements, how to maintain paddocks and lanes, and other

ways to "fine-tune" the entire grazing season, including hot season grazing and raising calves and beef on pasture.

Also, on Monday, Tom Calvert, sheep producer from Somerset County, was honored for his work with extension and SCS with the 1995 Pasture Management Specialist of the Year Honor. The award was formerly announced at the national meeting of the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), formerly SCS, in Wichita, Kan. At the grazing conference, Duane Pysher, grassland management specialist with NRCS, presented the award.

Lamb Marketing Workshop Set

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — The Lancaster County Sheep and Wool Growers' Association and Penn State Cooperative Extension present "Marketing Your Lambs," a workshop on Tuesday, March 12, at 7:30 p.m. at the New Holland Sales Stables.

Marketing is always a topic of importance to anyone in the livestock business.

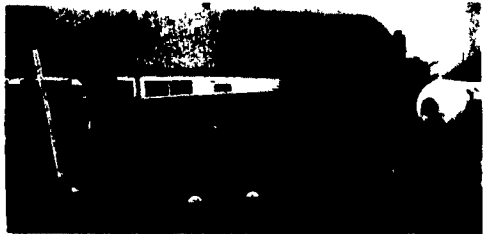
Ken Smoker, manager of the sheep, goat, and calf division of

New Holland Sales Stables will enlighten lamb producers about current market conditions, various ethnic consumers, acceptable lamb grades, and opportunities for the sheep producer.

Smoker has a vast amount of experience in marketing sheep and goats to a huge population on the eastern seaboard.

For more information, call the Lancaster Cooperative Extension office at (717) 394-6851.

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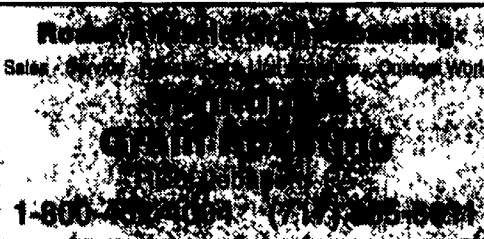
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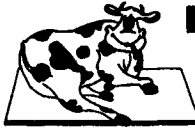


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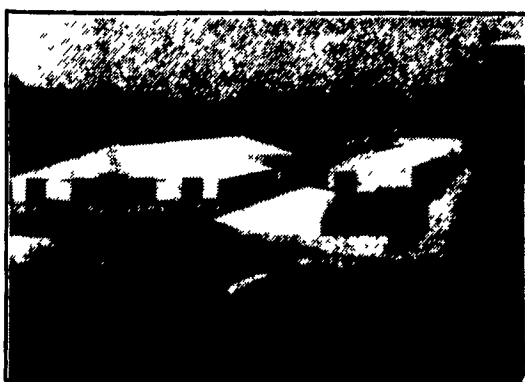
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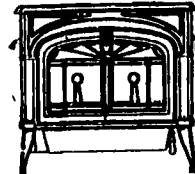
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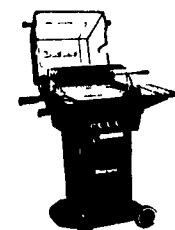
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