

Grazing Gazette



PENNSTATE
College of Agricultural Sciences
in cooperation with USDA/ARS

LOOKING BACK AND LOOKING AHEAD

Larry Muller
and
Steven Fales
Penn State

We have finished the first year of articles in the Grazing Gazette column. We hope the various articles have been useful and informative to you.

This column was initiated because of the increasing need for educational articles in the grazing area. The movement "back to grazing" and pasture-based systems is still increasing. It is not going back to the "good old days," but it is upgrading old technology that may be right for economical and environmental reasons.

Intensive grazing is another management tool that is being looked at by many producers. It is not for everyone, and not everyone will be successful who adopts

a pasture-based system. With good grazing and animal management, it provides the opportunity to improve profitability and lifestyle.

Grazing meetings. Attendance and enthusiasm has been high at local, state, and regional grazing meetings. More than 200 attended the recent two-day Pennsylvania Grazing Conference in Carlisle. A program highlight was the presentation by Dave Forgey, a highly successful dairy producer from Indiana and a regular columnist for Hoard's Dairyman, who switched to a grazing system about four years ago. Many other excellent presentations were made in such areas as watering and fencing systems, raising dairy heifers and beef on pasture, grazing management — principles and fine tuning, calf raising systems, low cost milking systems, and others. Twelve different producers parti-

ipated in the program.

Copies of the proceedings of the Grazing Conference are available for purchase for \$10. Send requests to the address at the end of this column and make checks payable to Penn State University.

Grazing meetings and pasture walks are being held on a regular basis throughout Pennsylvania. We encourage you to attend some of these meetings if you want to learn more about pasture-based systems.

Grazing center. This column, the Pennsylvania Grazing Conference, and other grazing activities are sponsored or coordinated through the Grazing Research and Education Center. The Grazing Center was formed nearly two years ago with the mission to enhance the environmental sustainability and profitability of animal agriculture through better use of grassland resources. The major objectives of the Center are education and research in the pasture systems area. The Center has a dedicated advisory council of individuals from various sectors of the agricultural community, including seven producers representing dairy, beef, and sheep industries. Council members meet periodically with faculty and staff to offer guidance on research and

Lancaster Farming, Saturday, March 30, 1996-A31

educational needs of clientele in pasture management and utilization. The council provides a direct channel for two-way communication between the Grazing Center members and those it serves.

Looking ahead. We plan to continue writing a bi-weekly Grazing Gazette column. Our goal is for these articles to be timely and informative. We welcome your suggestions for topics for the column. These articles will be authored by various members of the Grazing Center, but we want to know what you want written. Bound copies of the 15 articles from last year's Grazing Gazette columns are available for \$5. Make checks payable to Penn State.

One of the goals of the Grazing Center is to coordinate educational activities and disseminate information on grassland agriculture. Please let us know of various grazing activities, meetings, and pasture walks during the upcoming grazing season. We will list these activities in a Grazing Calendar at the end of the Grazing Gazette column.

Please contact us at the Grazing Research and Education Center, 116 Agricultural Sciences and Industries Building, University Park, PA 16802; fax (814) 863-7043. Larry Muller can be reached at (814) 863-4205 or Larry.Muller@agcs.cas.psu.edu. Steven Fales can be reached at (814) 865-2025 or slf@psu.edu.



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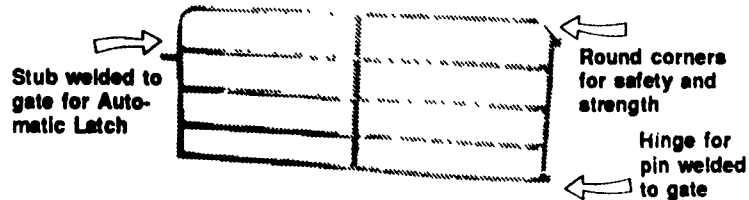
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