



# FORAGING AROUND

*'Industry, Farmer, Scientist — Working Together Toward A Sounder Grassland Program'*



## This Grazier Would Rather Work With Cows Than Equipment

**ANDY ANDREWS**  
Lancaster Farming Staff  
**KIRKWOOD** (Lancaster Co.) — Like a patient bricklayer, Lancaster County Grazier Arden Landis puts in place the pieces needed to convert his dairy to all-organic.

Like many organic dairy farmers, Landis measures the benefits of a better milk check. He weighs the benefits of product marketing.

But first things first. Those who want to see the

benefits of grazing and making the change to grass-based dairying must consider the details. "The pasture has to be treated like a crop as much as a fellow treats corn as a crop," he said.

Late last week, with the help of his wife Caroline, Arden was "making fence" in his field, moving the rotational system so cows could enjoy some fresh grass.

The grass is a complex mix of barcel fescue, fallopia festo-

lium, and ryegrass with clover mixed in. In some spots he has been interseeding with orchard-grass and chicory. Paddocks are arranged in segments measuring from three to 12 acres, and are fenced depending on the feeding rate of the cows.

Landis, president of the Lancaster County Graziers, has been leasing the farm since 1975 from Mrs. Lottie Stoner, Quarryville.

The farm has always been a dairy, according to Landis.

Landis manages about 140 acres at his Kirkwood farm. Of the 140 acres, 125 are in grass and 15 are in woodland and buildings.

Landis milks about 60 cows (increasing to 65 this fall, he said), predominantly Holstein, about 25 percent registered and the rest grade. Landis said an additional 10 heifers will be coming in next spring.

The dairyman tries to get as many cows bred between May 25-July 25 as possible to calve  
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"Production is not the driving force on this farm," said Arden Landis, a member of the Mount Joy Cooperative, right. With him is wife Caroline.

## Considerations For Growing Hay For Competition, Quality

**UNIVERSITY PARK, Md.** — The key to raising award winning hay is doing everything right and having the fortune to have cooperative weather, according to University of Maryland Extension hay specialist Lester Vough.

Vough is not only a hay specialist and researcher, but he has been and is expected to return as the judge of the Pennsylvania Hay Show, held annually during Penn State University's Ag Progress Days, August 12-14 at Rockspring, near State College.

The samples entered in the con-

test receive two reviews for judgement.

The first day, the entry samples receive visual and other sensory judgements. Vough looks for a good green color, good odor, leafiness, texture, as well as a lack of steminess and foreign objects.

All the entries receive nutritional analysis and the results are reviewed by Vough and compared with the first day's judgement to come up with the final results in the three section, 30-class hay competition.

Generally, Vough said, the

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## Popular Summer Pastime: Entering A Hay Show

**PAUL H. CRAIG**  
Dauphin County  
Extension Agent

Although the weather this year was not the greatest for timely hay harvest, (when is it ever ideal?), there was ample opportunity for the production of a lot of hay show quality forages.

Entering forage and grain samples in county fairs, Ag Progress Days, and Farm Show can be an educational and fun activity for all forage producers, young and old.

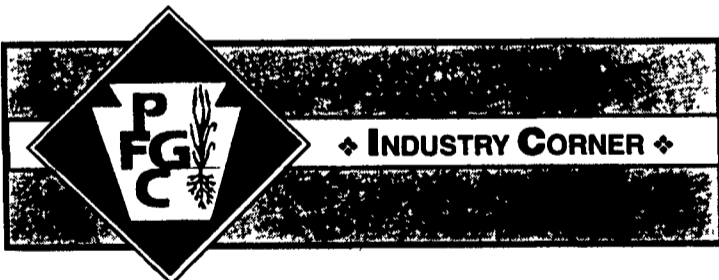
Most county fairs have agricultural departments that award ribbons and cash incentives for participants. A few of the larger shows will also provide a forage analysis for each entry.

Forages are entered in local

and state contests in many different classes. Unlike livestock shows, classes are determined by forage species or

percentage of species in the stand. An example would be a class of alfalfa, clover, grasses

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**JONATHAN RUPERT**  
Product Development  
Manager  
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Like most things in life, a "Perfect Pasture" does not seem to just drop out of the sky into your field. Rather, it is a result of seeking the best, abandoning the comfortable, and exploring the unknown.

Say what? Seek, abandon, explore? What do these words have to do with establishing a perfect pasture?

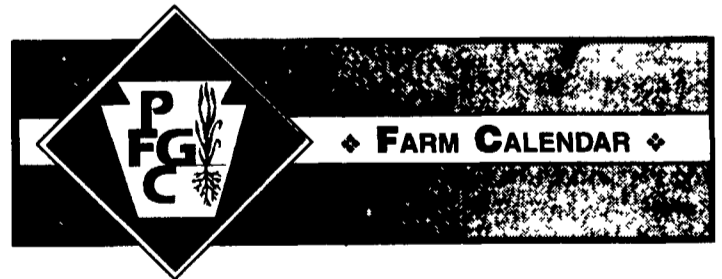
To some, they are rather

scary words, especially to the farmer who feels most comfortable buying the same mix that his father planted 20 years ago . . . (What's in that mix, anyway?)

If you want to improve your pasture you must do something different. For the only thing that is going to fall out of the sky and grow in your pastures are weeds.

So how does a Pennsylvania farmer get a perfect pasture? Much of the quest begins with

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- Tuesday, July 22  
Penn State Agronomic Field Diagnostic Clinic, Rockspring Research Farm, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., also July 24.
- Thursday, July 24  
Pasture Walk and Conservation Tour, Tim Kurtz, Kurtland Farms, Elverson, 10 a.m.-noon DST.
- Tuesday, July 29  
Pasture Walk and Conservation Tour, Aaron Stoltzfoos, Welsh Vue Farm, Gap, 10 a.m.-noon DST.
- Tuesday, August 5  
Pasture Walk and Conservation Tour, Aaron M. King, Ronks, 10 a.m.-noon DST.
- Tuesday, August 12  
Ag Progress Days, Rockspring,

- thru Aug. 14.
- Thursday, August 14  
Crop Science Field Day, Waterman Learning Laboratory, Columbus.
- Tuesday, August 26  
Pasture Walk and Conservation Tour, Mike S. Zook, Honey Brook, 10 a.m.-noon DST.
- Tuesday, September 9  
Pasture Walk and Conservation Tour, Levi J. Fisher, Quarryville, 10 a.m.-noon DST.
- Tuesday, October 7  
Pasture Walk and Conservation Tour, Samuel K. Glick, Leola, 10 a.m.-noon DST.
- Tuesday, October 14  
Pasture Walk and Conservation Tour, Alvin J. Stoltzfus, Paradise, 10 a.m.-noon DST.

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