

Erie County Dairyman Named PFGC Spokesperson

CAROLYN N. MOYER
Bradford Co. Correspondent
TUNKHANNOCK (Wyoming Co.) — "Think about it," says Union City dairyman George Heintz during his presentation, "The Northeast could grow grass better than most other areas." Heintz delivered his speech at the

1997 Northeast Quality Forages Conferences to a small, but attentive group of farmers and other agriculture professionals who traveled to the Shadowbrook Convention Center to take in the one-day event, Tuesday, November 18.

Because of his strong belief in

intensive grass production and his commitment to maximizing forage quality, Heintz was selected as the 1997 Pennsylvania Forage and Grassland Council spokesperson. As the state winner, Heintz will move on to represent Pennsylvania at the American Forage and Grassland Council convention in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Key to maintaining his 19,000-pound rolling herd average on his 20-cow dairy is making quality forage. He relies heavily on grass haylage consisting mostly of orchardgrass with some perennial ryegrass and reed canarygrass.

In areas of the Northeast where alfalfa is not a viable option, carefully managed grass could rival alfalfa in quality, Heintz noted as he gave his presentation which was entitled, "Making grass work when alfalfa won't."

Orchardgrass is largely the cornerstone of his operation because of its ease of establishment, it does well on less than well-drained soils, it tolerates and prospers with heavy manure applications and it's very palatable, among other reasons.

Harvesting the grass is one of the most important areas of management. Heintz challenged farmers to be aggressive, be prepared, watch weather patterns and be committed to succeed. His plan of action is to mow as early as possible anytime between May 15 and May 31, with little regard to the stage of maturity.

"Mowing preboot puts little stress on orchardgrass," he said.

He also dared farmers to mow that field even if there are wet spots that can not be harvested.

"If you have wet spots in the field, mow around them. Be progressively more aggressive mowing the closer you get to May 31."

Keeping your eye on the weather is also a very important job. Heintz notes that you should

watch for a three to four-day dry period. He warns not to cut at the start of a rainy cycle, but that its OK to cut during the last rain of a cycle if necessary.

Heintz further advised that farmers should not have more than a two-day wilt mowed at a time and that a good haylage making technique should be used. Lastly he noted that more high quality haylages are compromised by choosing too wet rather than too dry forage. The ideal moisture range is from 40 to 65 percent.

"Aim for 50 percent," he said.

After all was said and done, Heintz left with a bit of advice for all his fellow Northeast farmers, "Maybe it's time to get your grass in gear," he said.

Notice Of Milk Hearing

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to the Milk Marketing Law, 31 P.S. § 700j-101 et seq., that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Milk Marketing Board ("Board") will on its own motion conduct an emergency public hearing for all milk marketing areas on December 2, 1997, commencing at 2 p.m. in Room 110 of the Agriculture Building, 2301 North Cameron Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

The purpose of the emergency hearing is to receive evidence concerning whether — in the wake of the recent federal court order enjoining the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture from enforcing Class I differentials — the Board should adopt for its own interim use the differentials in the federal marketing orders.

The hearing is being called on an emergency basis to provide for a prompt, short-term response to virtual deregulation of the federal Class I price.

The staff of the Board is deemed to be a party to this hearing and to have complied with the following filing requirements. Other persons who wish to present evidence may be included on the Board's list of parties by (1) having their attorney file with the Board on or before November 28, 1997, a notice of appearance substantially in the form prescribed by I Pa. Code § 31.25 or (2) If unrepresented by counsel, filing with the Board on or before November 28, 1997, notification of their desire to be included as a party.

Presubmission of testimony and exhibits is not required. However, copies of written testimony and exhibits shall be provided at the hearing to members of the Board and to all other parties, with at least twenty (20) additional copies made available in the hearing room by their sponsor.

Parties that wish to offer in evidence documents on file with the Board, public documents, or records in other proceedings before the Board, or who wish the Board to take official notice of facts, shall comply with, respectively, I Pa. Code §

35.167, or 35.173. Whenever these rules require production of a document as an exhibit, copies shall be provided to members of the Board and to all other parties, with at least twenty (20) additional copies made available in the hearing room by their sponsor.

A prehearing conference for all parties will be held at 10 a.m. on December 2, 1997, in Room 110 of the Agriculture Building.

The filing address for the Board is Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board, Room 110, Agriculture Building, 2301 North Cameron Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408.

PENNSYLVANIA MILK MARKETING BOARD
O. Frank De Garcia,
Executive Secretary

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