



FORAGING AROUND

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



Erie County Dairy Is Rooted In Orchardgrass



George Heintz is spokesperson for the Pennsylvania Forage and Grassland Council (PFGC) who believes strongly in orchardgrass. He stands with his dog, Nicky, a Golden Retriever mix.

CAROLYN N. MOYER
Bradford Co. Correspondent

UNION CITY (Erie Co.) — As the spokesperson for the Pennsylvania Forage and Grassland Council (PFGC), dairy farmer George Heintz has a message for all farmers, especially those living in the northern United States.

"If you can grow alfalfa, alfalfa is a good crop. But our grasses are for the northern part of the whole country," said Heintz.

The grass he speaks most highly of is orchardgrass.

"We're a small farm. We've been here about 20 years and we grow high quality grass forages because we cannot grow alfalfa. We try, but it's usually a failure. Now we manage our grasses to give us high quality forage."

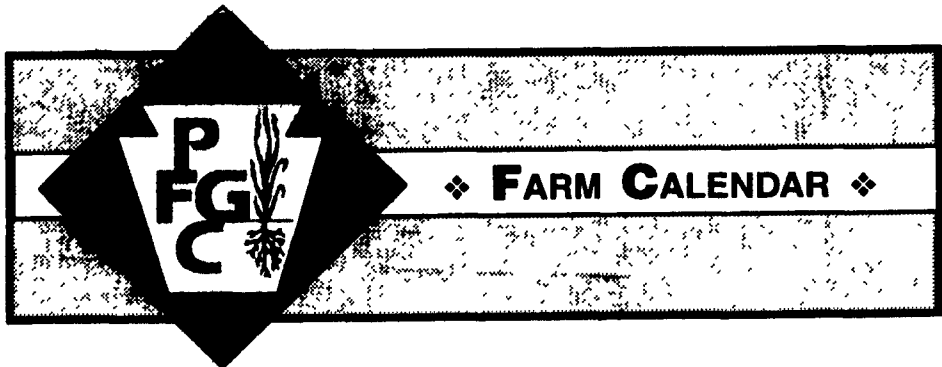
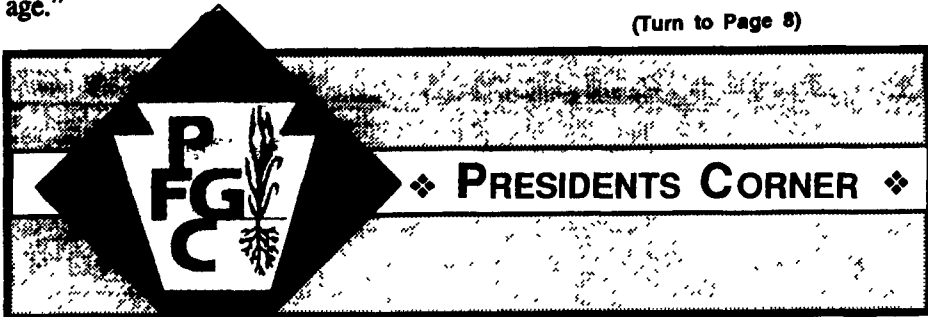
Focusing on grasses instead of legumes often puts Heintz on a different schedule than most of his fellow dairymen. While they are planting corn or waiting for their legumes to reach the right stage of maturity, Heintz is sitting on his tractor with the mower ready to go.

"The biggest problem is the mentality or attitude change that is needed. You need to get out there and cut it when it needs to be cut," Heintz said.

Between May 15 and May 30, Heintz isn't looking at the stage of maturity or the height of his grass. Instead, he's watching weather patterns very carefully.

"When we start to get a good cycle of weather, I get out there and mow. If the yield is low, it just means I'm getting better quality forage, and the se-

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Wednesday, February 11
Northwest Pa. Livestock and Grazing Management Workshop Series, Wesley Grange, Barkeyville, 7 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

Monday, February 16
5th Annual Southeast Pa. Grazing Conference, Lancaster Host Expo Center, Lancaster, thru Feb. 17.

Wednesday, February 18
Northwest Pa. Livestock and Grazing Management Workshop Series, Weekly Grange, Barkeyville, 7 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

Monday, February 23
Grazing Short Course, Prince

George's County Extension Office, Clinton, Mondays thru March 23.

Wednesday, March 4
Pennsylvania Grazing and Forage Conference, Grantville Holiday Inn, Grantville, thru March 5.

PFGC Annual Meeting and Awards Reception during Grazing Conference.

Sunday, March 8
American Forage and Grassland Conference, Indianapolis, Ind., thru March 10.

Wednesday, March 18
Pasture Management, Firth Learning

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LOOKING AHEAD
Dick Kauffman
PFGC President

This issue of "Foraging Around" kicks off the new year for PFGC. The articles that appear in this issue and the issues to follow in April, July, and October will cover a wide range of interests.

You will discover different forage production practices that may be useful on your farm. Included will be re-

search reports from industry and universities, feature articles on forage producers in Pennsylvania, special interest articles from around the country and around the world, and of course, upcoming events and past happenings sponsored by PFGC.

If you are not a member of PFGC, now is a good time to join.

The article in this issue by Dr. John Baylor summarizes the Alfalfa Grow-

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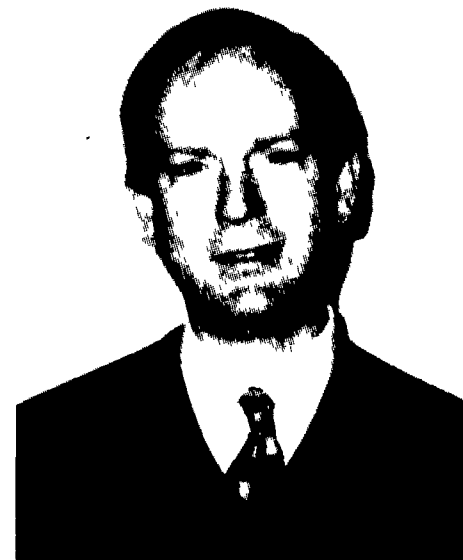
Grazing And Forage Conference To Feature Irish Grazing Specialist

GRANTVILLE (Dauphin Co.) Dr. Sinclair Mayne, a scientist at the Agricultural Research Institute of Northern Ireland, will be the keynote speaker at the Pennsylvania Grazing And Forage Conference here at the Grantville Holiday Inn March 4-5.

Mayne's grazing research with dairy cattle and beef is some of the strongest in the world. Sinclair Myne's research has emphasized improving grazing management to increase intake and utilization of pasture. In addition, he has been involved in a long-term study to evaluate the optimum genetic merit of different cow breeds for grazing management systems.

In addition to Sinclair Mayne, the program includes presentations on

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Dr. Sinclair Mayne

