



FORAGING AROUND

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



Coordinator Speaks About Economics, Benefits Of Grazing

ANDY ANDREWS

Lancaster Farming Staff

FAYETTEVILLE (Franklin Co.)

"A fellow staring out now would not have to invest in equipment and have large overhead to get in the dairy business," said Titus Martin, who switched to grazing about five years ago.

The Franklin County dairyman who helped found the Franklin County Grazers spoke about the advantages to a grazing system recently at his farm.

Martin, of Ti-Lin Holsteins, spoke at last month's Pennsylvania Grazing and Forage Conference in Grantville about the economics of grazing. He pointed out the difficulties of getting started as a dairy producer the traditional way — the huge capital investment of land, machinery, and other costs — a lot of which can be curtailed through low-cost grazing.

(Look to an article on Jeff Wolfe, Hanover, on how somebody just entering dairying has adopted grazing in his issue of *Foraging Around*.)

Martin switched to grazing in 1993. One day, he simply got disgusted with the old headaches of equipment and maintenance costs and settled on grazing, which he claims is a "more relax-

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PFGC Honors Producers, Educators At Conference

GRANTVILLE (Dauphin Co.) — Several award-winning forage and grazing supporters were honored for their work in promoting forages and grazing last month at the 1998 Pennsylvania Grazing and Forage Conference here at the Holiday Inn.

The Outstanding Pasture Producer Award was presented to Jimmy Garner, Montrose, Susquehanna County.

Garner has been intensively grazing


his 70 dairy cows on 35 acres for nearly seven years. He has been actively involved in the Chesapeake Bay Program and the use of grazing to meet the program goals.

"This accomplishment speaks for itself in highlighting Jimmy's grazing management skills," noted Dr. Marvin Hall, extension forage specialist, Penn State. "Mr. Garner is always willing

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Last month, Jim Garner, Montrose, was recognized with the Outstanding Pasture Producer Award from the Pennsylvania Forage and Grazing Council at its awards ceremony in Grantville. The Garner family, from left, Melinda, Andrea, and Justin. See story page 24.



♦ PASTURE PONDERINGS ♦


DUANE E. PYSHER
Grassland Management Specialist
Natural Resources Conservation Service

During the Pennsylvania Grazing and Forage Conference in Grantville, as I sat and listened to Mr. Lewis Sapp, who spoke of fencing and in particular on energizers, I thought about how I would share some of his key points with you. So here is a brief summation of what he

shared with us.
His first point was that you need to think about the two reasons you are fencing, which are for control or for profit. Control means to keep animals in or out of an area, to separate classes or types of animals, to fence out sensitive areas, or to improve pastures. The issue of for profit involves getting more forage production from a piece of land, thereby producing more milk, meat, or animal product per acre.

Power fences enable the grazier

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Pennsylvania Forage & Grassland Council
Newsletter Section April 18, 1998