

'Forage Suitability' Something That Can Be Plotted, Used By Producers

(Continued from Page A41)

FORAGE SUITABILITY GROUP

Deep, channery, well drained, strongly acid, moderately steep upland soils

Response to potassium (K) fertilizers is low. These soils naturally tend to have available K in the optimum range or above for their cation exchange capacity values. Legumes harvested for hay will benefit most from K fertilization to replace that which is lost by harvest removal.

When taprooted legumes are grown, a compatible and adapted cool season grass companion crop should be planted to cut down on frost heave losses or provide a fallback hay or pasture crop in the event frost heave reduces the legume stand anyway. The grass will also provide slightly better erosion control cover as well.

Forage yields for this soil group are constrained most by low pH and lack of nitrogen fertilizer applications when legumes are absent from the crop rotation or the forage stand. Second limiting factor is the AWC during dry years or prolonged dry spells during the growing season.

Large cattle and horse pastures with slopes above 15 percent will have a worsening distribution of grazing pressure as slopes increase to 25 percent if a single water source is located at either end of the elevational scale. Areas remote to watering facilities (greater than 800 feet away) will be underutilized. Meanwhile, areas within 800 feet of the watering facility will be utilized with increasing intensity as the water facility is approached. For even grazing pressure distribution, place watering facilities at intervals along the entire elevational gradient. Paddock layouts should have long axes parallel with the slope. Place a water trough in each. Sheep grazing pressure

Design cattle lanes serving paddocks to reduce their slope length and steepness while maintaining efficient paddock layout and fence length. When necessary to climb the slope, place regularly spaced water bars or diversions across the lane to deflect water off it. Direct and extend them as needed to prevent diverted water from coming back on the lane downslope. Heavy use lanes require surfacing if rilling becomes evident.

Place brace assemblies for wire fences everywhere sharp breaks in grade occur. If steel T-posts or fiber glass rods are used, place a wood post every 50 to 100 feet on hillslopes with vertical curvature to keep the lowest stretched wire parallel with the ground surface while preventing these more flexible and shallower set posts and rods from tipping or bending.

When reseeding forages on these channery soils, drilling is preferred to broadcast seedings. Drills achieve more uniform stands by deflecting most rock fragments away from the drilled row. Broadcast seedings that are lightly tilled or culti-packed afterwards often have channers overlying seeds that cause stem breakage during emergence. Untilled broadcast seedings will have many exposed seeds. This causes seedlings to emerge unevenly or germinate and desiccate due to poor soil coverage and excessive drying due to lying on partially or completely exposed rock fragments. Drill openers and coulters tend to wear out quickly and may break on occasion. Use the maximum recommended seeding rate for the species or mixture being planted.

(Turn to Page A46)

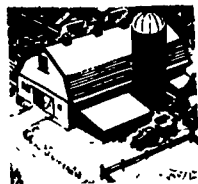
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Exhibitors

Asked

(Continued from Page A39)

The "Blue Ribbon Apple Pie Contest" will be held on Saturday, May 23 at 2 p.m. in the Pavilion area. Entries need to arrive by 1:30. The pie will be judged on overall appearance, the color, flavor, texture and doneness of the crust, the consistency and doneness of the filling, and creativity. The recipe must accompany the entry. The top prize in this contest is \$500.

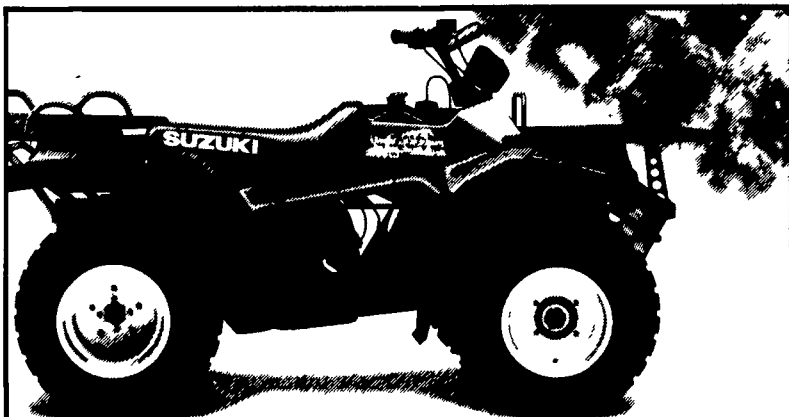
The "Land O Lakes Butter Best Cookie Contest" will be held on Saturday, May 16. Again entries need to arrive by 1:30 p.m. and will be held in the pavilion area. Cookies will be judged on taste, originality, creativity, appearance and ease of preparation. A \$500 check goes to the winner of this contest.

The "Cheesecake Contest" entries need to be entered on May 20 by 6:45 p.m. A \$250 award will be given to the winner of this class. The cheesecake must be made from scratch and may have a topping.

The fourth contest is the "Decorative Wreath Contest." Wreaths entered in this competition must be handcrafted and decorated using any base listed below. Use your creativity and develop your own beautiful creation. The grand prize in this contest is \$250.

As with most fairs in Pennsylvania, there will be competition for Youth, 4-H and FFA, as well as the open class competition already mentioned. There will also be beef cattle, sheep, swine, goats, poultry and rabbit competition.

This marks the 12th year for the Pennsylvania Fair at Philadelphia Park. Again, to receive an exhibitors guide, call 610-767-5026.



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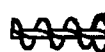
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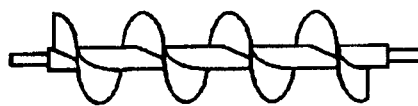
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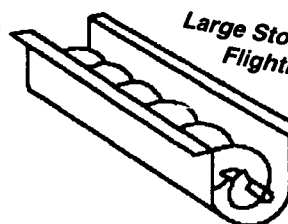


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