



FORAGING AROUND

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



Franklin County Dairymen Understand Needs Of Grazing Cows

ANDY ANDREWS
Lancaster Farming Staff
CHAMBERSBURG (Franklin Co.)
— Franklin County grazier Doug Martin understands cows.

He knows they enjoy "open air" housing. They like fresh, small paddocks. Cows enjoy a "salad bar" mix of grasses, including orchardgrass, ryegrass, matua grass, and clovers.

Cows like smooth, even lanes to walk to pasture. They like to have plenty of water to dip their tongues into on a hot summer day.

Cows enjoy keeping cool, too. In fact, producers see the effects of any kind of heat stress in the milk check.

Martin has taken the wishes of his 300-head Jersey milking herd on his Chambersburg farm to heart.

He has to, because there is literally not enough room for the all-registered herd, in a sense.

The freestall "housing" at Pleasant Valley Jerseys amounts to enough for about 200 cows. Martin has 300 cows to care for — so not all of them can be in the barn at the same time.

This member of the Franklin County Graziers believes that "open air" housing provides enough room to ensure the cows get enough to eat, are comfortable, can be readily milked, and

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In mid-April this year Doug Martin, left, helped conduct a pasture walk for the county graziers at the Chambersburg farm. At right, partner Paul Holderman manages the fieldwork on the farm. Altogether the Martins care for about 800 acres, including rented ground. Photo by Andy Andrews.

Dairyman, Conservationist Receives Highest PFGC Award

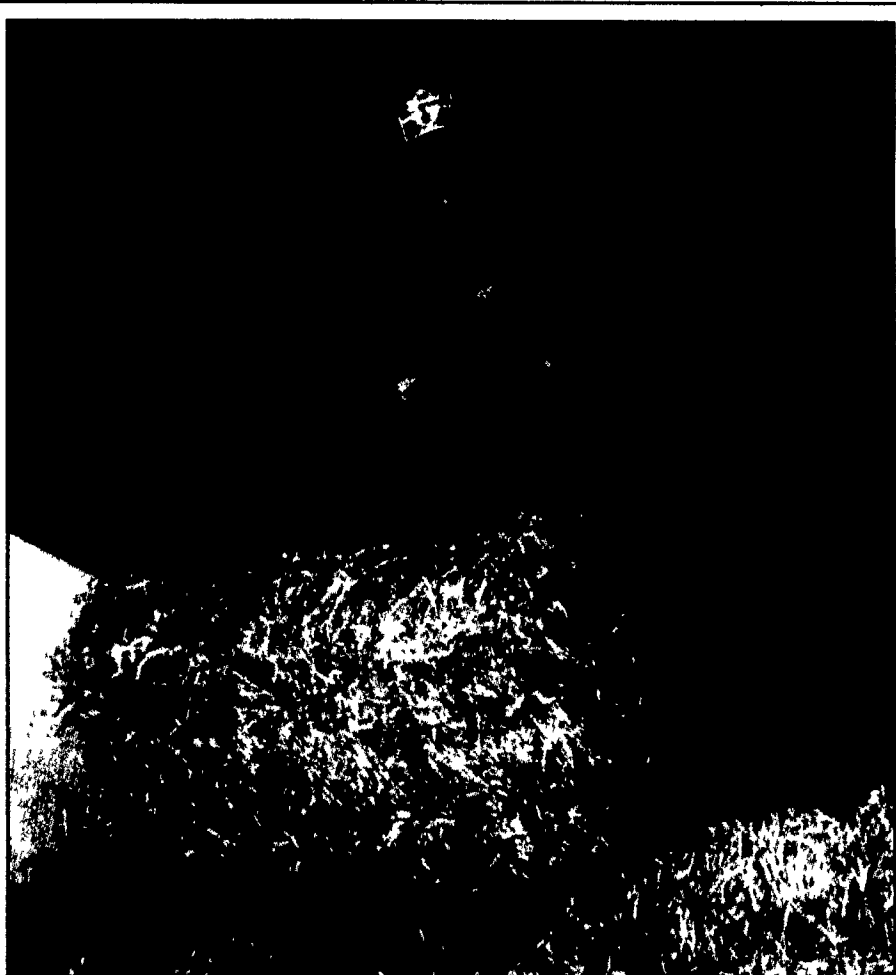
GAIL STROCK

Mifflin Co. Correspondent
LEWISTOWN (Mifflin Co.) — James Hostetter calls himself a forage producer even though he's been a dairyman for more than 34 years. It's not that the role is more important. It's simply essential to produc-

ing good-quality milk.

Feeding quality forage usually translates into better milk production, and Hostetter does both, with a healthy dose of soil conservation thrown in. His collection of awards proves his dedication in all of these

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Robert Bieber, who has been growing hay for years at his Northampton County farm, reveals the "secrets" to growing high-quality hay — hay that can net a premium price at any auction. Photo by Andy Andrews

Nazareth Farmer Learns That Drying Can Lead To Great Bales

ANDY ANDREWS
Lancaster Farming Staff
NAZARETH (Northampton Co.)
— As Robert Bieber slowly removes the twine from a 40-pound bale of fresh alfalfa hay, he separates a few slices. Out fall some of the leaves. "Look at that hay," he says. "No mold or wet spots. Perfect all the way

through."

Bieber points to a pallet, ready to ship to one of the horse farms that regularly buy his hay.

"This hay they can feed immediately," he says.

Bieber, who has been growing hay for years at his Northampton County

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Jim Hostetter of Lewistown, Mifflin County, received this desk plaque for his dedicated service to the Pennsylvania Forage and Grassland Council.

