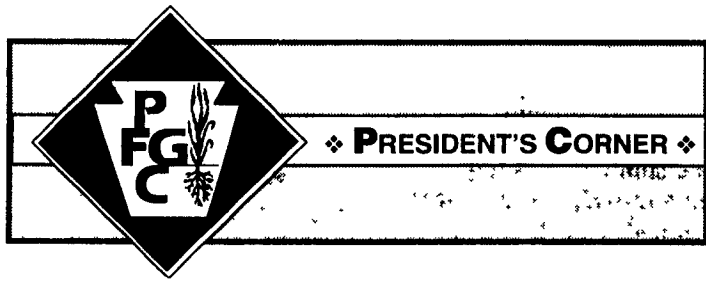


(Continued from Page 23)



**PAUL H. CRAIG
President, PFGC**

As president of the Pennsylvania Forage and Grasslands Council (PFGC) for 1998, hello to everyone. Let me tell you a little about myself.

I have been member of this ambitious group of farmers, industry representatives, and educators called PFGC for nearly 20 years. In that time I have attended many local and state events sponsored, promoted or conduct by the Forage Council throughout the state.

As an extension agent I have assisted PFGC members to conduct forage grass and alfalfa research trials that have been used by many forage producers across the state. I have worked with other PFGC members at pasture walks, forage conferences, speaking contests, hay contests, and in-depth training schools.

Earlier in my extension career I was fortunate to receive financial support to develop educational materials that have been utilized to increase forage production efficiency. I have also spent many hours in discussions with the leaders in forage production in Pennsylvania. I have gained a wealth of knowledge and experience as a result of the opportunity that PFGC has given me. Now as president I hope to work with the board of directors to continue to keep PFGC active.

Many times individuals are asked to make a contribution and join an organization. I would ask you to consider joining our organization, the Pennsylvania Forage and Grasslands Council - the reasons are many. The council is the only state organization that provides an

opportunity for forage producers, industry representatives, and educators to work together to strengthen the forage industry of Pennsylvania. Research trials, equipment demonstrations, field days, marketing, local producer recognition, and promotion of responsible agricultural practices are just a few of the activities of the Forage Council. Get involved. At Ag Progress Days, you can enter the 1998 Hay show sponsored by PFGC.

Start collecting entries now. There should be a lot of excellent first-cutting samples.

As Progress Days is also the time of the year when PFGC holds its annual picnic. This event is held rain or shine on Wednesday evening, Aug. 19, near the Ag Progress Day site. Food is served at about 6:30 p.m., but attendees usually arrive earlier to enjoy good conversations and to relax along the banks of Spruce Creek. There is a reservation fee of \$8. If you are coming up to APD and would like to attend the picnic, drop a note to the Pennsylvania Forage and Grassland Council, Attn. Picnic; P.O. Box 355, Hershey PA, 17033. Registration information will be sent.

At Ag progress Days at the Hay Show you will be able to pick up a PFGC membership application. I would encourage you to join. The opportunities that result as a membership in PFGC are worth a lot more than the membership fee. My experiences with this group of men and women has been very rewarding I urge you to participate.

Had they been still growing corn, the farm would have been left "high and dry," Sayre noted. They had good moisture in the spring and excellent grazing, and had a first cutting of hay. They wanted to get another cutting and fulfill their storage requirements.

However, it soon turned dry. Where normally they would achieve 2-3 cuttings and then graze the hay fields in September and October, last year they had to graze most of what would have been second cutting hay ground in July and August. The pastures simply weren't recovering as they do normally.

This flexibility, key to successful grazing, saved them from taking drastic steps, Sayre noted — either start feeding or sell the cattle.

Stocking rate for the 3-4 different herds runs 25,000-35,000 pounds of live weight per acre. The cattle will make about 300 moves through 65-70 paddocks during the grazing season.

All this flexibility is made possible when using electric fence, polywire, tread-in posts, and a portable watering system, he noted. The watering system consists of a submersible well-pump in a 6-inch PVC pipe sleeve lying in the side of the pond and a small pressure tank supplying a 1-inch black plastic line lying on top of the ground under the fence. At various points in this line, they "T" off plastic ball vales with garden hose snap-in couplers. "We can then snap in garden hose (up to 250 feet at times) to feed the Cool-Spring tanks," he noted. "These tanks are on 4x4 skids so we can drag them from paddock to paddock. This way we eliminate long lanes and the manure is distributed more evenly."

It's important for cattle breeders or feeders who want to use grazing to select the right type of cattle for a particular grazing situation.

"Go to a herd where the cows are raised in the type of environment you're going to put them in," Sayre said.

Along with using more forage ground also comes the responsibility of what to do with the excess nitrogen generated.

In the past, nutrients were disposed

of on corn ground, where they were readily available to the plant. But "our ability to put manure on corn ground is not like it used to be," said Les Lanyon, Penn State.

Lanyon spoke at the conference about the challenges in nutrient management faced by graziers.

A big challenge is how to "convince animals not to congregate," said Lanyon. "Where they hang out is where the manure accumulates."

The issue is: how to redistribute the manure so the available nutrients can be allocated where needed.

Lanyon offered the following manure application guidelines:

- Apply manure at low rates.
- Spread the manure as evenly as possible. Avoid clumping and uneven distribution.
- Avoid critical runoff areas — streams, drainage ways, and unprotected wells.
- Apply manure soon after harvest or grazing for established perennials.
- Avoid application with heavy equipment when soils are wet to prevent compaction.
- Record applications and balance nutrient requirements with manure nutrients available.
- Maintain nutrient balance in fields and pastures. Soil test regularly and watch magnesium levels for grazing animals.

Others who spoke at the conference include Jerry M. Swisher, Jr., extension agent in dairy science from Virginia Tech; Titus Martin of Ti-Lin Holsteins, Fayetteville; and Forrest Stricker, Berks County grazer.

Swisher spoke about how dairies are using rotational grazing as an opportunity for producers "to reduce cost as well as increase their net cash farm income."

Martin, who maintains a Holstein farm four miles east of Chambersburg, spoke about how grazing leads to "more profit — less work. It's great."

And Stricker provided an overview of how grazing has "a \$406 per cow advantage over confinement, even though milk production is down 2,912 pounds per cow."



NA-CHURS®

WHAT A COMBINATION

Better
Weed Control

Higher
Yield

For Your Roundup Beans

QUALITY is our #1 Product



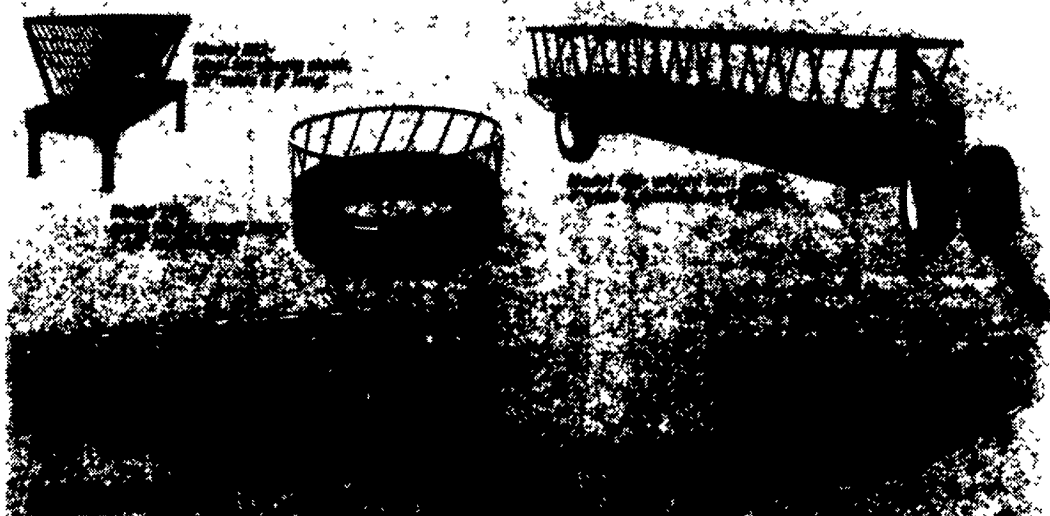
PARS, INC.

POSITIVE APPROACH for REVITALIZING SOILS

1-800-929-2676

Feed Saved is Profit Made

Farmco's efficient feeders put feed into your animals, not on the ground. Built for years of rugged use, they are a wise investment in your farming business. 10 models available in 27 sizes.



Call Your Local Dealer Today

Delaware
Hooper Equipment
Middletown, DE • 410/341-4028

Jays Barns
Frankford, DE • 302/732-6040

Maryland
George Hines Equipment
Union Bridge, MD • 410/775-2629

Potomac Valley Supply
Hagerstown, MD • 301/223-8877

Walter G Coale, Inc
Churchville, MD • 410/838-6470

New Jersey
Brodhecker Farm
Newton, NJ • 201/383-3592

Quality Structures
Flemington, NJ • 908/782-7408

Richard Kenworthy
Bernardsville, NJ • 908/766-0083

Pennsylvania
Blue Mt. Diesel
New Tripoli, PA • 610/298-3483

C. B. Hooper
Intercourse, PA • 717/768-8231

Curt's Welding
Rome, PA • 717/247-2539

Erb & Henry Equipment
New Berlinville, PA • 215/367-2169

Fields Implement
Eighty Four, PA • 412/222-1154

George Groes, Inc
Dover, PA • 717/292-1673

Gunther Heussman, Inc
Emmaus, PA • 215/965-5203

Glenn Wagoner
Darlington, PA • 412/827-2184

Kellers Farm Machinery
Quakertown, PA • 215/536-4046

Lapp's Barn Equipment
Gap, PA • 717/442-8134

Leaders Farm Equipment
Everett, PA • 814/452-2809

Lebanon Valley Implement
Richland, PA • 717/866-7518

Longeneckers, Inc
Williamsburg, PA • 814/793-3731

Marshall Machinery
Honesdale, PA • 717/729-7117

Newswanger Machinery
Kutztown, PA • 610/883-5970

Reiffs Farm Service
Shippensburg, PA • 717/532-8801

Romberger Farm Supply
Klingersburg, PA • 717/648-2081

Rovendale Ag & Barn
Watsonville, PA • 717/538-9564

Wyn Koop Farm Equipment
Marion Center, PA • 412/397-4960

FARMCO MFG.

2937 Irishtown Road • Ronks, PA 17572 • 717/768-7769