

Specialist Answers Questions

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — Growers Corner is your opportunity to ask questions and share tips that lead to successful forage management.

Send your questions and/or tips to PFGC News, C/O Dr. Marvin Hall, Agronomy Dept. Penn State Univ., University Park, PA 16802. I'm counting on you readers to make this section of the news valuable to everyone. Send in those questions or tips!

Q. I've seen the term Relative Feed Value (RFV) in several farm magazines lately. The articles imply that RFV somehow is a measurement of hay quality. What is Relative Feed Value and how is it measured?

A. Relative Feed Value is an index which combines several important nutritional factors that are determined by forage analyses into one number for a quick, easy, and effective method of evaluating forage quality. Nutritive evaluation of forages involves a number of forage quality analyses including dry matter, crude protein, acid detergent fiber, neutral detergent fiber, calcium, and phosphorus. While these analyses are important in formulating diets, they are confusing when trying to quickly evaluate quality differences in hay or haylage. In several states producers are using RFV at hay auctions to compare hay lots prior to purchase. RFV is calculated by combining the digestibility (DDM) and potential intake (DMI) of a forage into one number [RFV = (DDM x DMI)/1.29]. The RFV number is only an index to use when comparing similar hay-lots (e.g. two different loads of alfalfa hay). The hay-lot with a higher RFV is of greater feed value relative to the other hay-lot with a lower RFV.

Joint SRM/AFGC Meeting In February

OMAHA, NEB. — Interest in forages, rangelands, and grasslands is the only requirement to join thousands of forage producers, educators and specialists Feb. 21-26 here at the joint conference of the Society for Range Management (SRM) and the American Forage and Grassland Council (AFGC).

These two international organizations are bringing together top forage and range management experts and producers from across North America. The conference, with its "Building on our Heritage" theme, promises to take a close look

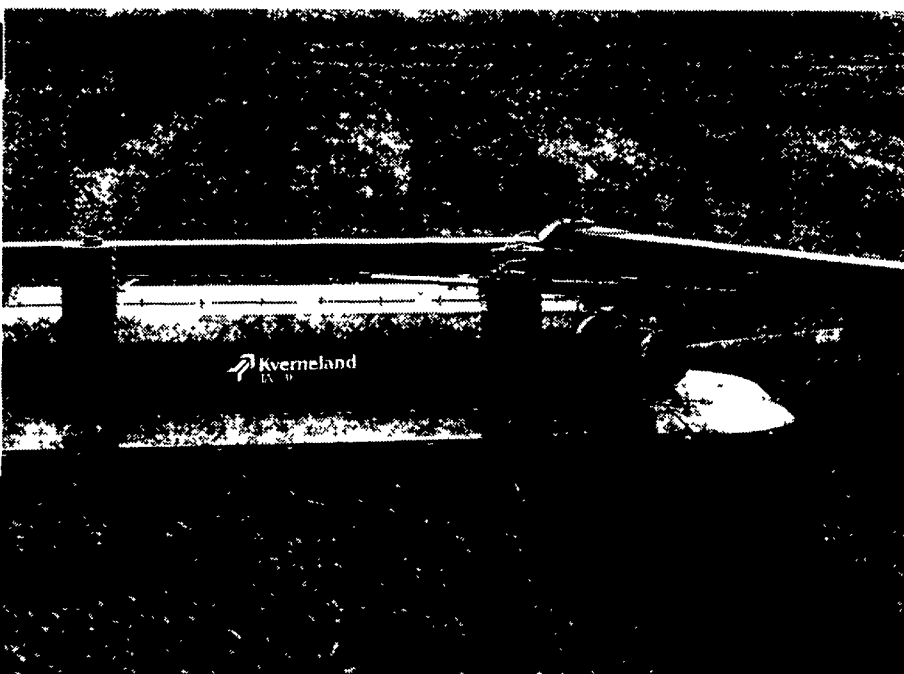
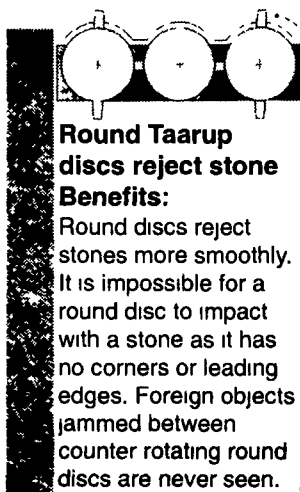
at the role forages and rangelands have played in North America and look forward to the future of these resources in the ever-changing world of agriculture.

The joint meeting represents a unique forum for an integrated presentation of range and forage topics through technical sessions, workshops and symposia, student events and competitions, tours, and a trade show. Concurrent technical sessions will include topics ranging from ecosystem management to forage evaluation and development of new forage crops.

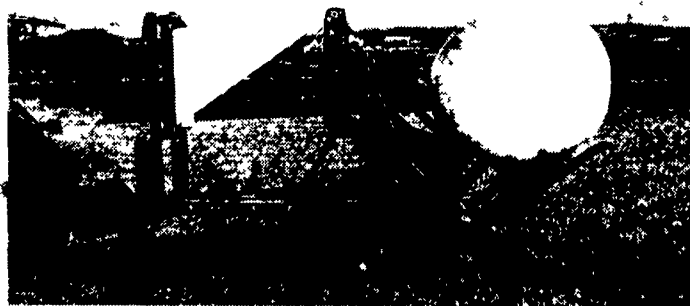
Several day-long symposia will focus on such topics as anti-quality compounds in forages and management of juniper species. Half-day and full-day technical tours will highlight range and forage research conducted at the University of Nebraska and provide behind-the-scenes views of habitat management at a national wildlife refuge and a world-class zoo.

A special "companion" program will allow conference attendees to experience some of Omaha's many attractions, including Boys' Town, the Old Market, and Joslyn Art Museum.

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