

What's Happening On PA Dairy Farms

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availability. As expected, 68.2% reduced the amount of forages fed but 31.1% did not decrease feeding of stored forages while cows were grazing (Table 2).

Table 2. Adjustment of energy, protein, and forage fed while cows were grazing*

Percent of Responses			
Feed Adjustment	Decrease	No Change	Increase
Energy	23.3	61.5	15.2
Protein	49.0	48.6	2.5
Forages	68.2	29.6	2.3

* Does not include herds that do not graze milking cows.

Summary: These results indicate that 42.3% of the farmers did not graze milk cows during 1996. Another 9.2% used pasture primarily as a exercise lot. These farmers: (a) grazed their cows in the same field all season, (b) used pasture for less than 25% of the forage needs during grazing, and (c) did not reduce feeding of stored forages while cows were on pasture. If this group is


added to the group that did not graze their cattle, then more than half (51.4%) of the dairy farms in PA can be considered as using confinement feeding systems. Furthermore, if intensive grazing is described as: (a) rotating cattle at least every 3 days, (b) using pasture for more than 50% of the forage needs and (c) decrease the amount of stored forages fed during periods of good forage, then only 6.2% of the survey sample of farms use intensive grazing management practices.

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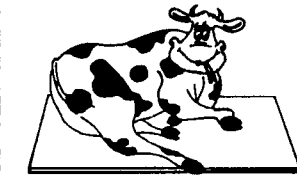


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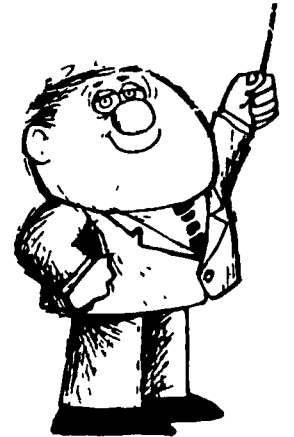
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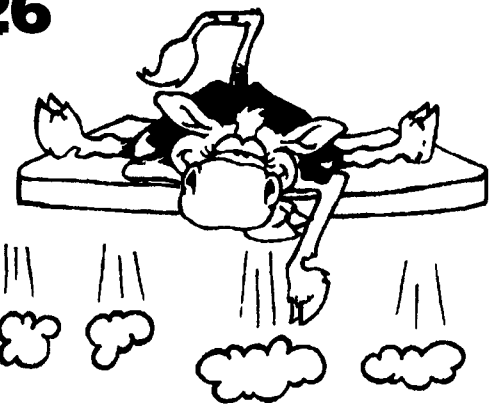
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