

Quality Hay Exhibited

This year, 131 hay samples were entered in the PFGC Hay Show at Ag Progress Days. This was an increase in sample numbers compared with last year.

In addition, the hay samples in this year's show were similar in quality to those of past years when conditions were better for making quality hay.

The visual appearance of most samples was very good. The quality analysis averaged across all samples was crude protein = 18.0 percent acid detergent fiber (ADF) = 34 percent; neutral detergent fiber (ADF) = 53 percent; and relative feed value (calculated from ADF and NDF) = 110.

The relative feed value was 1 point greater than last year. Numerous exhibitors and visitors at the Hay Show commented on the green and leafy appearance of many samples. A common comment heard

around the hay was "How did they make this stuff?"

The champion in the "field cured" and division was Robert Oswald from Nazareth, with an entry of later cutting alfalfa. The champion in the heat dried division was again Robert Bieber from Nazareth, with an entry of pure alfalfa. Oswald has been the champion in this division for seven consecutive years. Don Myers, from Spring Mills, was the champion in the "preservatives added" division with a later cutting of pure alfalfa.

**Kura Clover:
Is It For Pennsylvania?**

Research by the Agronomy Department at Penn State University is evaluating Kura clover for adaptability, production, and persistence under Pennsylvania conditions. This research was initiated because of positive reports about Kura clover in other states.

Kura clover is a perennial legume that has a deep, branching taproot

and also produces rhizomes. Under other climatic and soil conditions, Kura clover has persisted well even under frequent grazing. It tolerates poor drainage better than red clover or white clover, and can survive drought conditions by going dormant.

The above ground portion of Kura clover is very leafy and high in feeding value. In recently completed grazing research in Minnesota,

Kura clover averaged 97 percent leaves, 25 percent crude protein, and 83 percent digestibility.

However, Kura clover is not productive during the establishment year. Three years may be required before stands reach full forage production potential. The plant sacrifices herbage production early in its development in order to invest in a strong root-rhizome system which will support favorable herbage yields.

PFGC Announces Award

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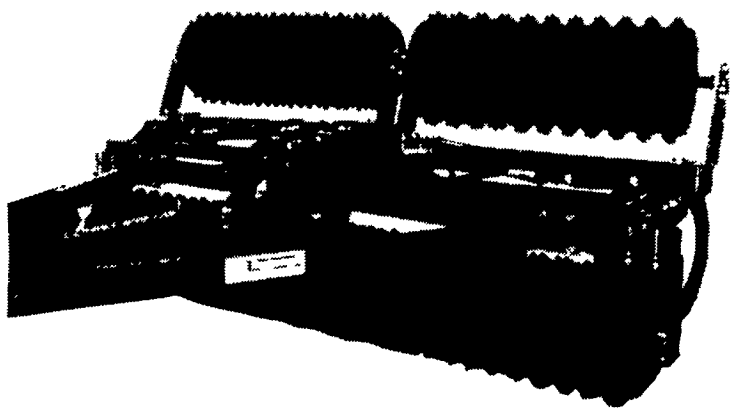
before adopting completely. He turns the cows into a new paddock after each milking and currently has a herd average of +19,000 pounds per year. He has stabilized the cattle lane ways to minimize erosion and make it easier for the cows going to and coming from the pastures. Mr. Martin was instrumental in starting and continues to be a driving force in the Franklin County Grazers group. He is actively involved in many farm organizations and is a strong advocate of grazing in Pennsylvania.

-Duane & June Hertzler, Perry Co. Duane and June Hertzler milk 150 Holsteins on their 320-acre Perry County Farm. Prior to 1994, they grew corn and alfalfa on all their cropland plus 400-500 acres of rented land. In 1994, they made the decision to go to intensive grazing. Since then they have converted all of their land (275 acres) to intensive grazing. A few of the changes they have made since converting to grazing are installed shale lane ways,

installed a portable water system to provide water in all paddocks, fenced streams and installed cattle crossings, and increased use of movable polywire fence for improved management of pastures and cows. Duane and June have also been very cooperative in hosting field days on their farm and sharing their experiences with others. Duane is speaking at this year's Grazing and Forage Conference.

-Lewis & Ben Hawley, Susquehanna Co. Lewis and Ben Hawley seasonally milk 75 cows on their 140-acre grazing operation in Susquehanna County. The cows freshen in the spring to match the pasture season and are milked in a newly constructed double-10 parlor. The Hawleys have implemented numerous practices to improve their pasture and herd management. They continue to focus on optimizing pasture production and utilization as a way to increase animal performance. Their farm recently received the Dairy of Distinction and Conservation farmer of the Year awards.

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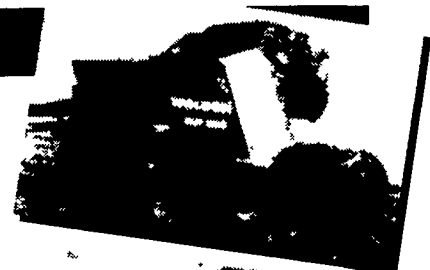
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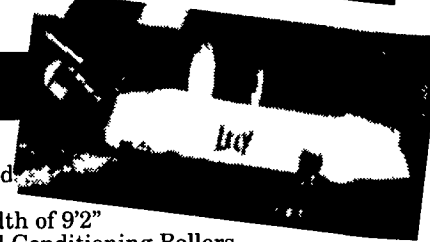
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