

Council Honors Graziers, Industry Leaders At Banquet

(Continued from Page 12)

• George Kepple, Armstrong County. Kepple owns and operates the premiere rotation grazing system in Armstrong County, according to Hall. Kepple developed and implemented the grazing system after extensively reading about and observing other rotational grazing systems. He is always willing to host field days on his farm and take time to share his ideas with other farmers. He recently spoke to the Armstrong Conservation District and the Farm Service Agency on the benefits of rotational grazing. An Armstrong County district attorney, Kepple's "dedication to rotational grazing and environmental protection along with his willingness to help other farmers makes George Kepple deserving of the award," noted Hall.

• Greg and Deb Farr, Columbia County. The Farris operate a rotational grazed cow/calf herd. Their grazing operation has evolved over time into

an exceptional example of outstanding grazing, noted Hall. The changes in their grazing system have come from their involvement in educational programs as both students and teachers and research and demonstration projects on their farm. Some of the projects include pasture accumulation rates, alternative pasture species, and altering rotation periods for optimum production. The Farris have also hosted educational meetings and field days on their farm.

• Titus Martin, Franklin County. Martin milks 90 cows on his rotational grazed farm in Franklin County. Martin began converting his 145-acre farm over to pastures and rotational grazing in 1992. It has been a continual process for Titus, said Hall, as he learns new things and experiments with them on his farm before he adopts them. Martin turns the cows into a new paddock after each milking. He has a herd average of more than 19,000 pounds per

year. Martin has stabilized the cattle laneways to minimize erosion and to make it easier for the cows going to and coming from the pastures. Martin was instrumental in starting and continues to be a driving force in the Franklin County Graziers group. He is actively involved in many farm organizations and is a strong advocate of grazing in Pennsylvania, Hall said.

• Duane and June Hertzler, Perry County. The Hertzlers milk 150 Holsteins on their 320-acre farm. Prior to 1994, they grew corn and alfalfa on all their cropland, plus 400-500 acres of rented land. In 1994, they decided to go into intensive grazing. Since then they have converted all of the land (275 acres) to intensive grazing. A few of the changes they have made since converting are installed shale laneways, a portable water system to provide water in all paddocks, fenced streams, installed cattle crossings, and

increase 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," Hall said. Duane spoke at this year's conference.

• Lewis and Ben Hawley, Susquehanna County. The Hawleys seasonally milk 75 cows on their 140-acre grazing operation. 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 to increase animal performance. Their farm recently received the Dairy of Distinction and Conservation Farmer of the Year awards.

In addition, Paul Craig, PFGC president, stepped down. New president is Ed Rits, Honey Grove.

New directors were elected: Rich Adams, New Holland; John Pergosky, New Tripoli; and Matt Sanderson, State College.

WINTER SNOW IS BENEFICIAL TO FORAGES

Marvin Hall
Penn State Forage Specialist

The snow this winter was an annoyance for those of us who had to shovel it or travel in it. However, the forages loved it!

It was just what they needed to increase their chances of surviving the winter and being productive next summer.

How does snow help forages survive the winter? Let's use alfalfa as an example to demonstrate how this works.

If the alfalfa plant has properly hardened for the winter (increased sucrose and decreased water in the root cells), its crown and roots can withstand temperatures as low as 5 degrees F. This temperature may alarm you since air temperatures are frequently lower than this. Fortunately the snow works as a layer of insulation and protects the roots and crown from extremely cold air temperatures. This is why winters with little snow cover (therefore little insulation from extreme fluctuations in temperature) are very hard on alfalfa persistence. Last winter is an excellent example of this occurring throughout much of the state.

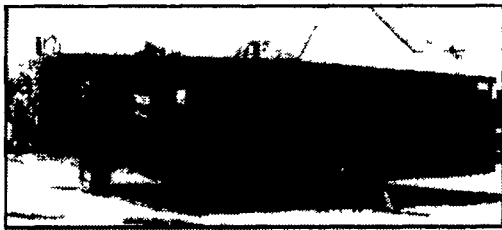
(Turn to Page 35)

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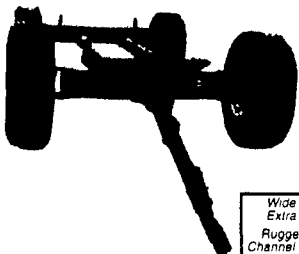
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APRON	
Dual with steel slats	
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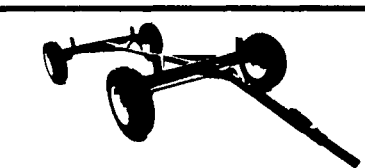
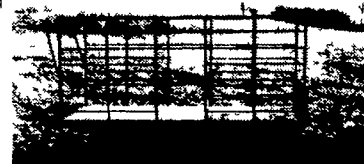
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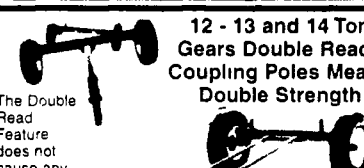
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