

## Forage Crop Pocket Guide Provides Handy Reference

NORCROSS, Ga. — Busy farmers and others involved in forage crop production and grazing management

may find answers to everyday questions in a new "Forage Crop Pocket Guide." The 52-page, 3x6½ -inch re-

ference contains numerous lists and tables of information with facts on forage grasses and legumes.

Basic information on animal requirements is also listed.

"The new forage crop pocket guide contains the kind of information most people don't memorize, but need to access quickly from time to time," said Dr. B.C. Darst, executive vice president of the Potash and Phosphate Institute (PPI). "The booklet is intended to improve management and profitability in forage production through attention to important details."

The pocket guide was written by the authors of the popular book, "Southern Forages," which was introduced in 1991. Authors of the book — Dr. Don Ball of Auburn University, Dr. Carl Hoveland of University of Georgia, and Dr. Garry Lacefield, University of Kentucky — also developed the new pocket guide. The new booklet contains some information from the book, but also has additional lists and data. It is intended for use throughout the U.S., not limited to the Southeast.

The new pocket guide was published in 1999 by PPI and the Foundation for Agronomic Research (FAR). It is available for purchase from PPI at a price of \$3 each plus shipping/handling of \$1 for a single copy. For pricing on larger quantities, contact Circulation Department, PPI, 655 Engineering Drive, Suite 110, Norcross, GA 30092-2837; call (770) 825-8084, fax (770) 448-0439, or visit the web site at [www.ppi.far.org](http://www.ppi.far.org).

Examples of the contents include guidelines on calibrating seeders, growth characteristics of various grasses and legumes, forage quality factors, and nutrient removal in harvested forages. Information on forage crop stand establishment, hay and silage harvest and storage, and rotational grazing guidelines are included.

## 'Salad' Approach

(Continued from Page 17)

"I think that when these farmers turn the power of decision over to their sons is real critical as far as the success of the farm," said Hawley. "There's a generation thing all the way through, but somehow we've got to get more young people involved and we're getting less and less involved all the while."

When Hawley travels to his director's meetings, he follows this rule of thumb that was passed on to him by a former DFA director.

"Don't call home, they're going to have to deal with it anyway," said Hawley.

One of the biggest challenges Hawley still faces is the perception held by many that he isn't a real farmer or that he isn't farming at all, even though he was recently honored with a state forage quality award.

"When you quit buying seed from a corn seed salesman, he thinks you're not a very good farmer; when you quit buying a lot of fertilizer from the fertilizer salesman, he thinks you're not a very good farmer; you quit buying feed from the feed salesman, he thinks you're not a very good farmer; you quit calling the vet because your cows are healthier, and he thinks you're not a very good farmer. You've got your

cows out harvesting the forage and spreading the manure, so you're not buying nearly as many parts, and your equipment dealer thinks you're not a very good farmer because you're not in there. Pretty soon there's a whole bunch of people who wonder if you're even farming."

Any farmer who is skeptical or curious about the way Hawley is farming today is welcome to come to a pasture walk on his farm on August 27 from 10 a.m. to noon.

"This year our extension agent is marking growth on our pasture. We are beginning to be noticed a lot more and that's rewarding. We certainly don't fit in to the main stream with the higher DHIA records and the breed association meetings and the club sales and that sort of thing. All the farmers are more than welcome to come out to the pasture walk," Hawley said.



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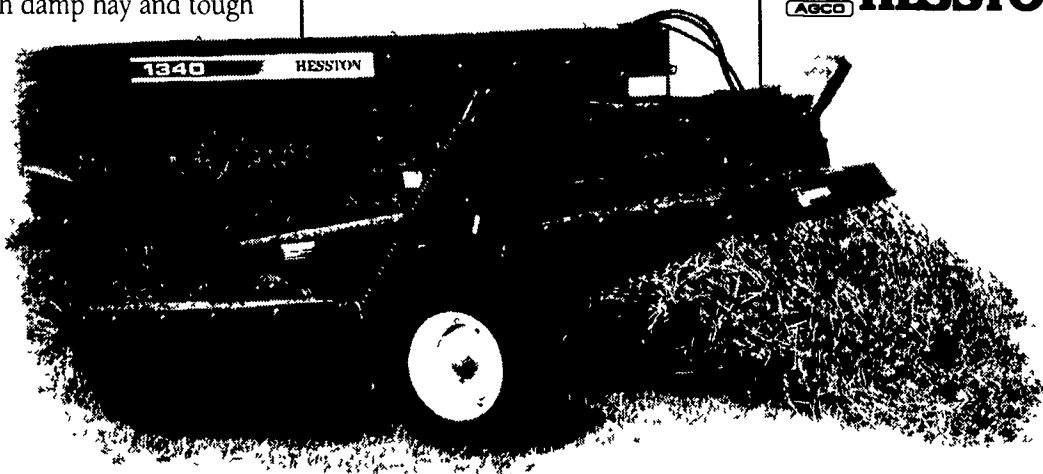
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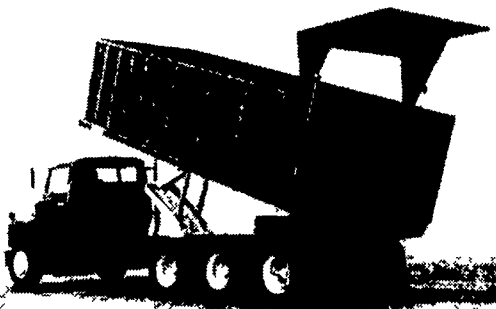
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