

Lancaster Farming SPECIAL

SATURDAY, SEPT. 11 ISSUE



Pennsylvania Forage and Grassland Council

FORAGING AROUND



'Industry, Farmer, Scientist — Working Together Toward A Sounder Grassland Program'



1999 PFGC FALL NEWSLETTER

FORAGING AROUND
 'Industry, Farmer, Scientist — Working Together Toward A Sounder Grassland Program'

**THIS SPECIAL ISSUE
 WILL FOCUS ON NITROGEN
 STUBBLE TREATMENT FOR
 IMPROVED YIELDS**

- Drought Survival Years Review
- Farm Features of Outstanding Producers
- Calendar of Events
- Advertising Messages

- PFGC News Columns
- President's Corner
- PFGC Update
- Research Reports

ADVERTISER

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 SPECIAL SECTION OF
 LANCASTER FARMING
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**Advertising Deadline -
 Friday, Sept. 3**

ANDY ANDREWS
 Lancaster Farming Staff
 LOYSVILLE (Perry Co.) — Before
 the year that changed everything for
 Perry County dairyman Duane Hertzer —
 1994 — his herd experienced health
 problems.

Cows were on concrete. Hoof problems
 were critical.
 The cows were having trouble with
 feed.

But by working with a nutritionist, a
 seasonal plan for feeding was put in
 place.

And Hertzer looked at some of the
 things successful farmer/grazers were
 doing, trying to find an answer to his
 herd health problems.

With the changes in place, the fol-
 lowing year began to pay off.

Because of the soil type and terrain,
 and the fact that during a drought year
 they get hard hit because of the Duf
 field limestone and shale combination,
 an area marked by shale ridges, even
 didn't do as well.

When it was dry, corn for silage was
 almost nonexistent.
 They found out that grazing, for the
 land they had to deal with, could be the
 solution.

Getting the cattle off the concrete
 and into the newly sown pastures
 proved better, according to Duane.
 Culling rate was 43 percent in 1993
 and dropped the next year to 32 per-
 cent. In the best year since the
 changeover, culling dropped to 24
 percent.

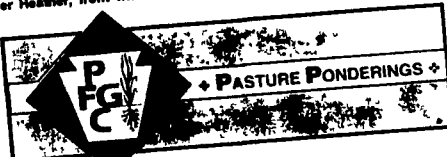
And with soil conditions, a little bit
 of rain provided swift rejuvenation of
 the pastures on the farm.

For his work Hertzer was awarded
 the past winter with the Pennsylvania
 Forage and Grassland Council Out-
 standing Producer Award at the coun-
 cil's annual awards and educational
 conference in Grantville.

Hertzer owns three farms on his
 Moo-Echo Dairy in Perry County, that
 includes 315 acres. He rents additional
 (Turn to Page 2)



Duane Hertzer owns three farms that include 315 acres on his Moo-Echo Dairy in Perry County. He rents additional acres to bring the total farmed to 650. The all-registered Holstein herd includes 15 Dutch Belted and one Jersey. With him are wife June, next to him, and daughter Heather, front with dog Dutch. Photo by Andy Andrews.



Duane E. Pysler
 Grassland Management Specialist
 Natural Resources
 Conservation Service

Last time I talked with you I was
 discussing the rain — and when I
 think about it that was probably the
 last significant rain we received. What
 a difference we are seeing out there to-
 day! It looks like August already.

The natural question comes up:
 How do you handle this situation in a
 grazing system?

There are several things to consider
 when dealing with drought conditions
 in a grazing system and I will discuss
 them.

Drought and its effect on a grazing

system is not so different than what is
 occurring in a conventional farming
 system. When you think about it corn,
 soybeans and the pasture — as well as
 most of the crops — are all drought
 stressed. The difference between the
 grazing and conventional systems lies
 within the management system.

When the forages have slowed
 down in their regrowth, we need to
 consider the management that we are
 applying to our grazing system. It is
 important that our management re-
 mains intense and perhaps gets even
 more intense.

We cannot at this point become lax
 and allow the forages to be overgraz-
 ed.

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In addition to the corn for grazing, Hertzer also planted a mixture of
 turnips and kale that will be grazed later this fall. He says he takes the
 "safer approach" to feeding his cattle. Farmers who would like to see
 how the new crops fit into a grazing program can come to the Hawley
 farm on Aug. 27 from 10-noon for a pasture walk. See story page 12.
 Photo by Carolyn Meyer

