

Grazing Conference Feb. 28

CLARION (Clarion Co.) — The Natural Resources Conservation Service, Penn State Cooperative Extension Service, Headwaters Resource Conservation and Development, and The Jefferson County Conservation District are sponsoring the third annual Northwest Pennsylvania Grazing Conference Feb. 28 here at the Gemmell Student Center at Clarion University.

Registration begins at 9 a.m. The conference will start at 10 a.m.

Technology has brought dramatic improvements to crop production through innovations in equipment, plant varieties, and pest control. Most producers focus considerable attention on maximizing production on

their cropland.

Pastureland often receives much less attention on many of our livestock and dairy farms. Improved management of this underutilized resource can often provide producers with an opportunity to reduce costs at their existing level of production or increase production with the same level of inputs. In addition, well-managed pastures with stream crossings, streambank fencing, riparian buffers, and watering facilities also reduce erosion, improve water quality, and enhance wildlife habitat.

The Northwest Grazing Conference was started three years ago as a way to bring the latest in grazing expertise to this area and to provide producers with

an opportunity to share and exchange ideas.

This year's keynote speaker is Dr. Jim Gerrish. Gerrish is the principal agronomic researcher at the University of Missouri Forage Systems Research Center. His research centers on the interdependency among plants, the soil, and animals in a grazing environment. Specific research has involved factors that affect grazing distribution across the landscape, the relationship between the length of grazing periods and the harvest efficiency of forage crops, and the impact of grazing management systems on animal performance and economic returns.

Gerrish practices what he preaches on his 260-acre com-

mercial cow/calf and stocker cattle operation. He is a nationally recognized grazing expert who speaks at 50-60 grazing events annually. His keynote address will be "Strategies for Improving Pasture Stands." He will also present a session on "Grazing Management for Stocker Cattle."

Other speakers will address including grazing in dairy rations, developing water systems, stabilizing cattle lanes and overwintering areas, and extending

the grazing season. A farmer panel comprised of graziers from western Pennsylvania will round out the program.

Registration this year is \$18 and includes a hot buffet lunch. Brochures and conference information can be obtained by calling Headwaters RC&D at (814) 375-1372, ext. 4.

For more information, call Gary Swope, Natural Resources Conservation Service, at (814) 375-2125.

Show Meeting Scheduled

STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.)— The Northeast District of the Pennsylvania Holstein Association will hold a meeting on February 1, 2000 to plan the 2000 Northeast Championship Show. We will also discuss other issues as brought by the membership.

The meeting will be held beginning at 11:00 a.m. at the Edgewood Restaurant, Route 6, Troy PA.

All Holstein members from Northeast Pennsylvania are invited to this meeting set for February 1, 2000.

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For more information, call:

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