

**Ed Rits
Natural Beef Producer
Honey Grove**

Winter is usually a good time for reflection and for planning for the next year.

As we pore over our records to meet our tax obligations, we look for ways to reduce our expenses or increase our income next year.

Winter is also a good time to attend several educational meetings. Not only can you learn what industry, researchers, and public educators have to offer, but you have an opportunity to visit with other producers faced with similar challenges.

The upcoming Pennsylvania Grazing and Forage Conference, March 1-2 at Grantville, would give you that opportunity. Registration information is available elsewhere in *Foraging Around*.

As we have aged and our boys left the farm, it was necessary that we develop a system of farming that reduced the need for strenuous manual labor. Much of the information we obtained came from visiting a number of grazing farms and attending several forage conferences 10-12 years ago.

If I was to select the one conference that was the most useful to us, it would be the PFGC-sponsored forage conference in the mid-'90's that reported on a PFGC-sponsored re-search project on forage storage options on a Lehigh county farm.

At the time we were not very happy with our experiences with large round bales. As a result of the information provided by this research project, we have developed a storage and feeding program for our farm that we are very satisfied with.

This on-farm research project was only available because people became members of PFGC and a portion of their dues was used to develop information and disseminate to other producers, educators, and industry representatives. If you are not a member of PFGC, consider joining today. If you have a problem on your farm, perhaps a project could be developed. See your local county agent.

Every producer should be doing some type of on-farm research every year. We can't expect university and seed companies to do all our re-search for us. If you have an idea to solve a problem on your farm, try it out.

Attention graziers: If you are a grazer who plants annual forage crops, you may be interested in trying a bag of tetraploid annual ryegrass. I have a bag I will give you to try on your farm. Call me at (717) 734-3745 if interested. If more than one grazer is interested, a drawing will be held at the PFGC annual meeting on March 1.

As I write this last PFGC President's Corner column for *Foraging Around*, I am reminded that all things come to an end, but will continue with good planning. PFGC will continue under the able guidance of Ed Konkle, our current president-elect.

PFGC will celebrate 40 years of service this year. Activities will be announced soon.

Our Century Farm will have the opportunity to continue as a family-owned farm because of the planning our generation has undertaken.

If you would like more information on passing on the family farm, contact Marian Bowlan at FarmLink, your local county agent, or a competent revocable living trust lawyer.

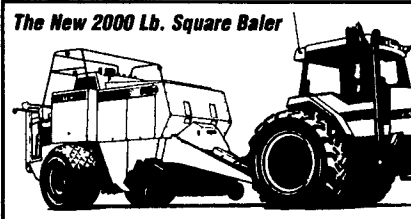


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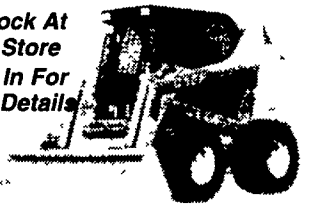


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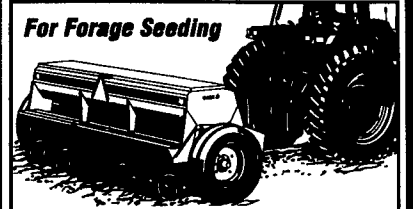
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