

# Forage And Grassland Council Turns 40

HERSHEY (Dauphin Co.) — In 1960, the Pennsylvania Forage and Grassland Council (PFGC) was formed by farmers, industry, and scientists who wanted to develop sounder forage programs for Pennsylvania farmers. Forty years later the PFGC has made tremendous strides in achieving that goal.

This year the PFGC will be highlighting some of Pennsylvania's forage history and the PFGC's involvement in many changes in forage agriculture.

Why should we care about forage production and use? Much of the land in the United States is ideally suited for forage production. In fact, more than 50 percent (1.2 billion acres) of the land area in the U.S. produces forages and nearly 60 percent of all livestock feed in the U.S. is forage. When considering only beef cattle, approximately 80 percent of the feed is forage.

Forages are generally perennial, so annual reseeding costs are not required. They provide excellent

soil erosion control and require less chemical inputs (pesticides and fertilizers) than do grain crops. In addition, forage crops can generally be grown on soils that are unsuitable for grain crop production. These characteristics make forages a valuable resource for all (rural and urban) Pennsylvanians and Americans.

The backbone of Pennsylvania agriculture and the key to minimizing agriculture's impact on the environment is forage. That is why the PFGC formed and why they have

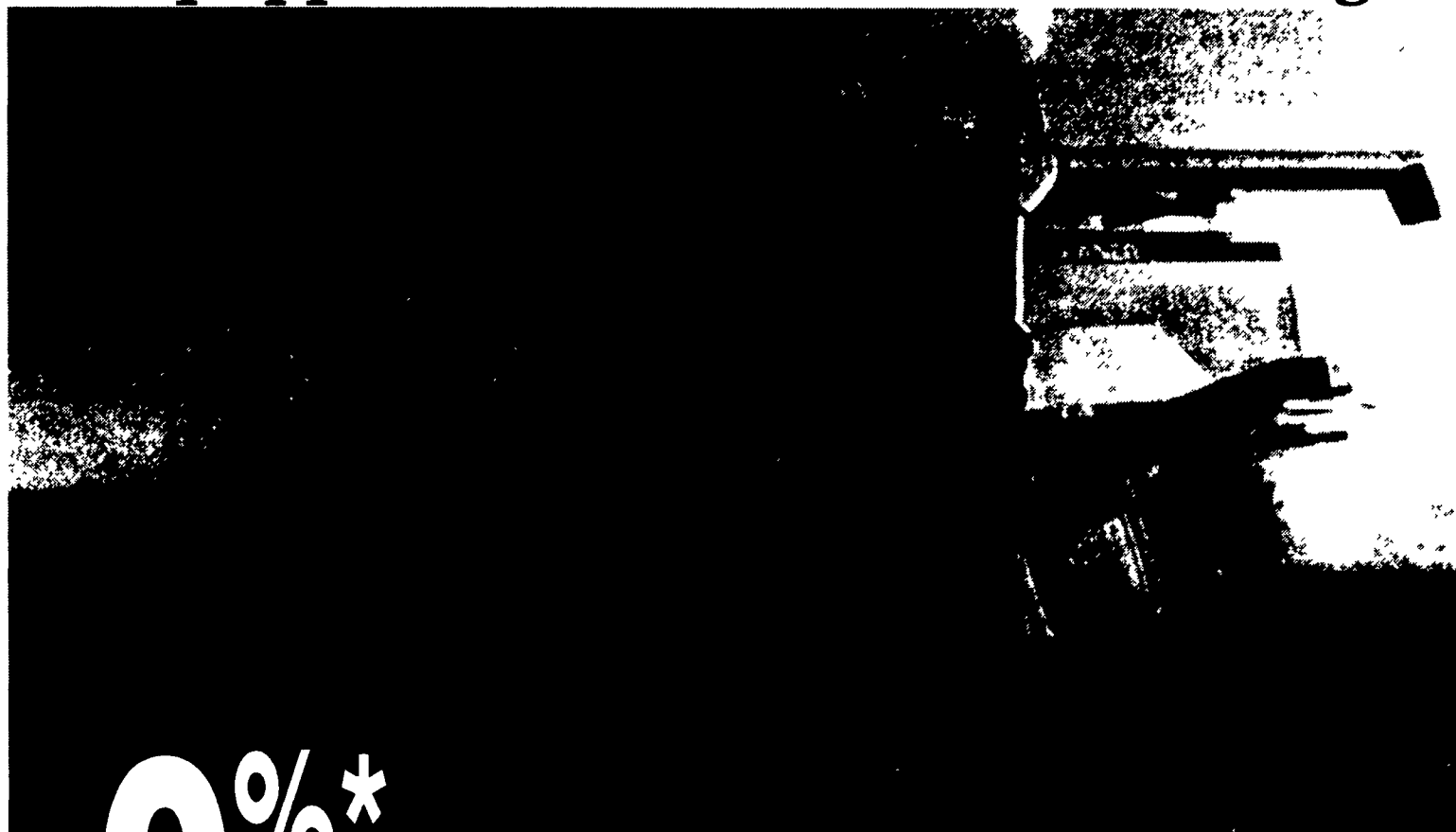
spent 40 years working as a team of farmers, industry, and scientists trying to develop sounder forage programs for Pennsylvania.

To recognize this proud 40-year history, the PFGC is planning a 40th Anniversary celebration on Wednesday, Aug. 16 at Evergreen Farms covered bridge near Seven Stars. Mark that date on your calendar and make plans to attend.

For more information about programs, including the 40th Anniversary celebration, contact Richard Hann at (717) 520-2349.



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