

# Top Pennsylvania DHIA Herds By County For June

The top producing herds above 675 pounds of protein in Pennsylvania DHIA for June are listed by county. In addition, herds from New Jersey and New York are also listed. They are as follows:

NAME	BR	NO LWS IN MILK ADAMS	MILK LBS	J X	FAT LBS	FAT PCT	PRO LBS	PRO PCT
SPUNGOLD HOLSTEINS	B3	76 7	26944	0	1054	3 9	882	3 3
C & T DURBORAW	3	67 5	26523	0	931	3 5	836	3 2
KE HOLTZ DAIRY	B3	296 9	26153	1	925	3 5	797	3 0
KE HOLTZ DAIRY 2	3	11 1	26580	1	936	3 5	789	3 0
STONER DAIRY	G3	60 6	24721	1	818	3 3	780	3 2
LAGGING STREAM FARM	B3	149 9	23720	0	901	3 8	772	3 3
BROWN VALLEY FARM	3	72 9	22479	0	873	3 9	732	3 3
KENNETH H WENGER	B3	170 2	22578	0	873	3 7	729	3 2

KEN/KEHR	3	126 2	22753	0	819	3 6	726	3 2
BEAVER RUN FARMS	B3	141 9	23080	1	813	3 5	718	3 1
BUTTONWOOD FARMS	3	147 0	22348	0	847	3 8	709	3 2
LEROY DEPUTY	B3	143 8	21863	0	827	3 8	686	3 1
HILCREST DAIRY	B3	245 8	22238	0	771	3 5	682	3 1
BER CRK	3	83 1	21376	0	800	3 7	678	3 2
ARMSTRONG								
ROY E BOWSER	B3	92 5	24048	0	740	3 1	765	3 2
TE & MARYJEAN GROOMS	B3	68 5	21739	0	723	3 3	696	3 2
MAYPORT HILLS HOLST	3	53 3	21879	0	777	3 6	692	3 2
SCOTT BOWSER	B3	60 0	22011	0	776	3 5	690	3 1
BEAVER								
BONZO ONE O-ONE	3	39 4	28489	0	1021	3 6	919	3 2
DIANE BERRY	3	21 9	23272	0	839	3 6	750	3 2
BEDFORD								
ROCKLANE FARM	3	64 4	31590	1	1053	3 3	991	3 1
MARLIN D HEISEY	# G3	78 4	30459	1	1008	3 3	958	3 1

(Turn to Page C4)

## Manage Endophyte-Infected Tall Fescue Pastures

Dave Hartman  
Extension Agent Forages

Tall fescue is a plant species that pasture managers both praise and curse. If you are in a situation where your animals are refusing to eat it in the late spring or summer, you probably hate the stuff.

If you have it incorporated into a system where you can stockpile it in the fall and graze it in late fall or winter, your animals probably love it and you save serious dollars in winter feeding costs. In this scenario, you probably praise the stuff.

Just a little trivia to bring you up to speed on tall fescue.

In the early 1930s, Dr. E.N. Fergus of the University of Kentucky collected seeds of tall fescue plants and eventually developed the variety known as Kentucky 31. No doubt if you have pasture or hay or have seeded any conservation struc-

tures (terraces or waterways) on your farm, you have heard of Kentucky 31 tall fescue. It is the predominant variety on most of the fescue acreage in the U.S.

Over the succeeding years it became well documented that Kentucky 31 tall fescue caused a variety of animal health problems. Poor milk production, poor reproduction, lameness, higher respiration rates, elevated body temperatures, lower heat tolerance, poor weight gains, abnormal fat deposits, foaling problems, and the loss of the tips of the ears or tails are some of the problems caused by tall fescue.

It wasn't until the 1970s when researchers finally cracked the case and figured out why all these ugly problems were afflicting animals on tall fescue. It was discovered that a fungal endophyte *Acremonium coenophialum* was the basic cause of the problems. Endophyte simply

means a fungus that lives within the plant. This is what ecologists refer to as a symbiotic relationship. Both plant and fungus are mutually benefited by the association.

Although we are not part of the "fescue belt," which runs through part of the U.S. to the south of us, we still have our share of headaches with tall fescue. And, although there are plenty of low endophyte or no endophyte tall fescue varieties available these days, we still see rejection problems with tall fescue. If you have it on your farm, the question becomes "how can I manage pasture which is predominantly tall fescue?"

First let's look at the bigger picture. Are we working with dairy cattle, beef cattle, horses, or small ruminants? Do we want to make hay, stockpile pasture, or only graze? Are the animals sick or are they just not eating

the fescue? How much pasture is affected — most of it or just a small percentage? Is the tall fescue actually infected with endophyte, and if so, at what level? (It can range from 0-100 percent infection) All of these questions can help determine how to manage tall fescue.

If you are working with dairy cattle or horses and having problems with tall fescue rejection in your pasture, it may pay to renovate to get rid of it. Having dairy cattle not maximizing forage intake while on pasture will cost you money. Improving the stand with more palatable species in this case would most likely pay. If you have horses and run any bred mares, grazing tall fescue that is not endophyte-free is a risky proposition. At the very least you should remove bred mares from the pasture during the last one-third of pregnancy. This is especially important during July and August. Having the tall fescue plants tested to gauge the level of infection may be well worth the money.

If you have beef cattle, sheep, or goats the considerations are somewhat different. You may want to consider options to work with the fescue unless the level of infection is high. High infection would be land that is more than 50 percent fescue and the fescue is more than 50 percent infected with endophyte. In this case, you may want to renovate. Otherwise, there are some things you can do to work with the fescue.

Establishing more legumes (alfalfa, clovers, trefoil) has been shown to reduce problems with tall fescue. Herbicides or grazing can be used for suppression to reduce cover and competition to make interseeding legumes more successful. No-till drilling and frost-seeding are two common methods used to get more legume into the stand.

Aim to get a minimum of 40 percent legume. Removing cattle and sheep from breeding pastures during peak breeding times may help reproductive efficiency. Another option with a beef or small ruminant system may be to try to classify pasture cells into different levels of tall fescue incidence. The fields with the highest amounts of fescue

could be grazed early, then baled later in the spring, baled again in mid-summer, then stockpiled during late summer and fall for later grazing.

Try to get the early cutting in boot stage. Tall fescue hay made after seedhead emergence can depress animal performance. Following this strategy will depend on the number of acres of land you have available for grazing.

Certainly one thing you don't want to do if you are trying to control tall fescue is let it go to seed. This is its primary means of spreading. Keep it vegetative by mowing or grazing.

If you plant any tall fescue, use a variety classified as endophyte-free. Talk to seed company representatives and other farmers. There are many endophyte-free varieties available, but they are not all the same. Some graziers experience large amounts of rejection with some endophyte-free varieties. Other graziers may be able to tell you if their animals find a particular variety palatable. There may be other differences as well that will impact your decision.

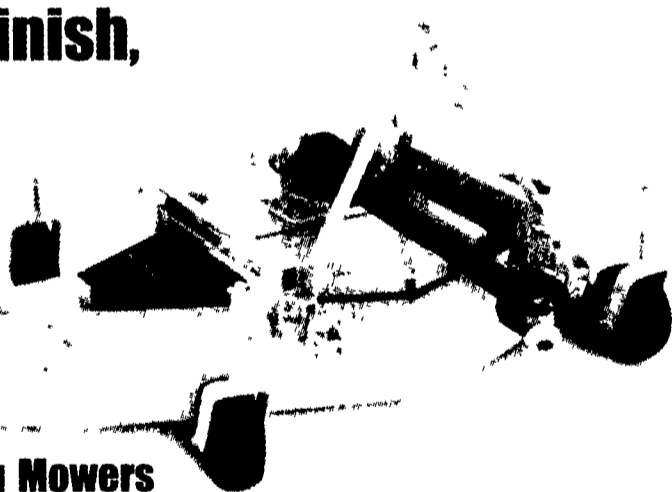
There is ongoing research being done with tall fescue. Its positive attributes and widespread adaption in parts of the country make it a very important forage species despite its problems. In fact, a new variety is being studied that is endophyte infected but the endophyte does not produce the toxins that affect animal health and productivity.

If you have tall fescue, it may be worthwhile to test some samples to see if indeed it is infected, and if it is infected, what is the percentage. Knowing the infection level can affect how you manage it. As noted above, higher levels of infection may warrant renovation.

If you need help identifying tall fescue, developing a tall fescue management plan or eradication plan, sampling plants for testing, or interpreting the results, contact the Penn State extension office nearest you and find out who is responsible for forage agronomy in your area. This agent will be able to give you guidance in managing tall fescue.



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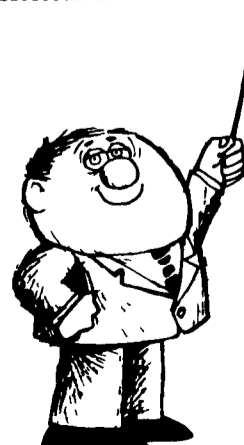
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