



# Lancaster Farming SPECIAL

## SATURDAY, APRIL 21 ISSUE



Pennsylvania Forage and Grassland Council

# FORAGING AROUND



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



# 2001 PFGC SPRING NEWSLETTER

The newsletter of the Pennsylvania Forage and Grassland Council (PFGC) is scheduled to include:

- Crownvetch Grower Information
- Southeast Grazing Conference Update
- Grower Award Winner Photos From Annual PFGC Conference
- And more!



### Switchgrass Provides Cattle Health Benefits

ANDY ANDREWS  
for a better farming world  
ROCK SPRING (Centre Co.) —  
Switchgrass can provide some good  
forage for grazing cattle, particu-

### Don't Overgraze, According To Pasture Beef Producer

ANDY ANDREWS  
for a better farming world  
ROCK SPRING (Centre Co.) —  
Pasture beef producers and  
Fisher re-grazed his pastures  
When it comes to grazing, I am  
my greatest enemy," he told about a  
ducers and agronomists  
representatives the past summer at  
Ag Progress Days in Rock Spring. I  
didn't recognize when overgrazing  
was done.

During the daylight hours, the  
tories were grazed and were fair  
But in the night, the beautiful  
he said, "I guess. After the drought  
to my (Fisher) and I lived in Sep-  
tember 1999, in 18 hours the  
same back again," he said. The  
d, "I'm back."

Fisher spoke at a Grazers Forum  
at Ag Progress Days in Rock Spring  
Kak pastures.  
ing prevents us from using all of our  
for pastures and fields, didn't need  
the many herbivores Fisher noted. He  
said that in one field, "I can come  
back with 60 sows and worms to go  
back for the day."  
By restoring the grasslands of his  
farm in an 8.9 year period, the  
work is allowing us to have some  
freedom in farm."

Fisher said that in the head-  
quarters of the Pennsylvania Forage  
Council, near Philadelphia, and he  
farm has been in the farm since  
1983. Some land is forest, but a good  
deal is hay, including a mixture of  
orchardgrass and timothy. The  
Fisher also grows a mix of sweet clover  
and pumpkins for a roadside stand  
After speaking with Tim Fisher,  
the extension agent for the area at the  
extension agent for the area at the



At last year's Ag Progress Days at Rock Spring in August, Jim Cropper, NRCS national forage management specialist, and Kathy Soder, USDA ARS animal scientist, inspect the Cave in Rock variety of switchgrass. Photo by Andy Andrews.

percent crude protein and a very  
vegetative. "Sixty of 65 percent  
Lording, in Kathy Soder, USDA  
ARS, it was not  
The switchgrass is very vegeta-  
tive and quite palatable," Soder  
said.

Purchased Angus beef from Penn  
States looked good in both ends  
toning from the pasture.  
If producers want to use the  
warm season grasses in pastured  
beef the switchgrass takes a hard  
look at them," said Soder. "It is  
the animals are doing well in pas-  
ture. That includes hip bone rib  
cover, and how well and how much  
the animals are feeding."  
The PFGC was joined with a  
1.45, 1.45 tons per acre. The  
switchgrass planted at Rock Spring  
was five years old. It is up to 5 m  
in height and was spaced with a seed  
stand in 20 years of 1 and  
still producing.

According to Jim Cropper, NRCS  
national forage in that, most spe-  
cialist the switchgrass was in titled  
from a corn rotation. The  
switchgrass should be rotated back  
in to an after a time to kill any fall  
fescue or quackgrass that will  
emerge.

The switchgrass he said is a  
dormant and does well with a  
good amount of building up. I  
Fisher should have the soil. It  
take the grass, and it is about  
inches of stubble.

The variety Cave in Rock was  
developed in Quickstart F&C was  
In Rock is noted for its adaptability  
to growing conditions. The high humid  
east especially in the year. The  
atlas. It grows the high humid is  
age and temperature.  
Plants reach maturity in 12 to 18  
months. The maturity stage is a  
best on fertile well drained soils.

### Pa. Grazing And Forage Conference Feb. 28-March 1

(RANTVILLE Dauphin Co.) —  
The Pennsylvania Grazing and  
Forage Conference, scheduled here  
at the Holiday Inn from Feb. 28  
to March 1, will feature numerous  
presentations and discussions focus-  
ing on grazing and forage issues.  
This conference is co-sponsored  
by the Pennsylvania Forage and  
Grassland Council and the Pennsil-  
vania Grazing Research and Educa-  
tion Center.  
Plan to attend the conference to  
learn more about watering systems,  
forage grazing livestock systems,  
establishment and renovation deal-  
ing with the summer shortage of

forage or low cost milking parlors.  
In addition to these topics, many  
more will be presented by a wide  
array of speakers. The keynote  
speaker will be Mr. Ken Hartlett a  
speaker. (Turn to Page 24)



**Monday, February 26**  
Southern Pennsylvania Grazing  
Conference, Hoffman Building  
Lancaster Fairgrounds thru Feb.  
27

**Tuesday, February 27**  
York County Grazing Meeting  
Herks County Ag Center  
York, Pa. 2:30 p.m. thru 4:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, February 28**  
York County Grazing Meeting  
York, Pa. 2:30 p.m. thru 4:30 p.m.

**Thursday, March 1**  
Pennsylvania Forage and Grassland Council  
Annual Meeting, Hershey  
Hotel, Hershey, Pa. 8:00 a.m. thru 4:00 p.m.



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