



Pennsylvania Forage Production For 2000

Based on year-end acreage and yield data, production of alfalfa and other hay was above last year's production in Pennsylvania, according to the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service (PASS). This is Pennsylvania's first year in the forage estimating program.

Alfalfa forage was harvested from 830,000 acres with an average yield of 4.17 tons per acre, resulting in total alfalfa forage production of 3.46 million tons. Alfalfa haylage and greenchop production was 2.92 million tons.

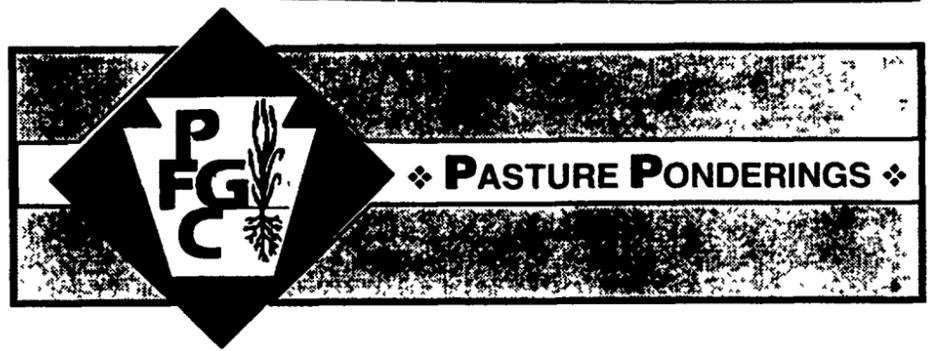
Acres harvested were 430,000, with an average yield of 6.80 tons per acre. Alfalfa dry hay production was 2.02 million tons, 20 percent

above last year's production.

Acres harvested were 650,000, with a yield of 3.10 tons per acre.

Alfalfa acres newly seeded in 2000 for crop production in 2001 totaled 130,000 acres, down 5,000 acres from a year ago. All other dry hay acres harvested totaled 1.15 million acres, which yielded 2.10 tons per acre for a total production of 2.42 million tons, up 44 percent from last year.

Acreage for all forage production totaled 2 million, with an average yield of 3.17 tons per acre resulting in total forage production of 6.35 million tons. Haylage and greenchop was harvested from 62,000 acres, with an average yield of 6.25 tons per acre for a total production of 3.87 million tons.



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rious issues if they reach U.S. shores. With the rapid spreading ability of FMD, immediate disposal is the only answer. Think about your situation and how this would affect you and your farming enterprise. Costs could be very high and could even mean severe economic hardship.

Consider the issue of biosecurity on your farm. Are you taking precautions to keep diseases from coming onto your farm or from leaving your farm? Remember Alan's situation and continued problems in deadline with John's. Perhaps you need to have a disinfectant station available for visitors coming onto your farm. Perhaps you will prevent

visitors from coming onto your farm without knowing where they have been within the past week.

The USDA announced that efforts to prevent the importation of FMD and BSE to the U.S. have been stepped up. Inspections at ports of entry have been increased and a ban on all importation of swine and ruminant animal products is in effect.

The virus for FMD can live in a human respiratory system for up to five days, although it is not a threat to human health. It can survive on contaminated clothing for 10 to 12 weeks. According to some sources, FMD can live in dry manure for 14 days, in slurry manure for 39 days, in urine for 39 days, and on the soil surface for three days in the summer (if conditions are cool and moist, for up to 28 days). There is documentation that the virus has traveled airborne for 156 miles. Is this serious? You bet it is, because the disease spreads very easily and rapidly.

The public, particularly the traveling public, needs to be educated on how they can be a carrier of this disease. The USDA has instituted such an educational campaign, but we all need to do our part to help pass the word along. We all have a vested interest in preventing an outbreak in the U.S.

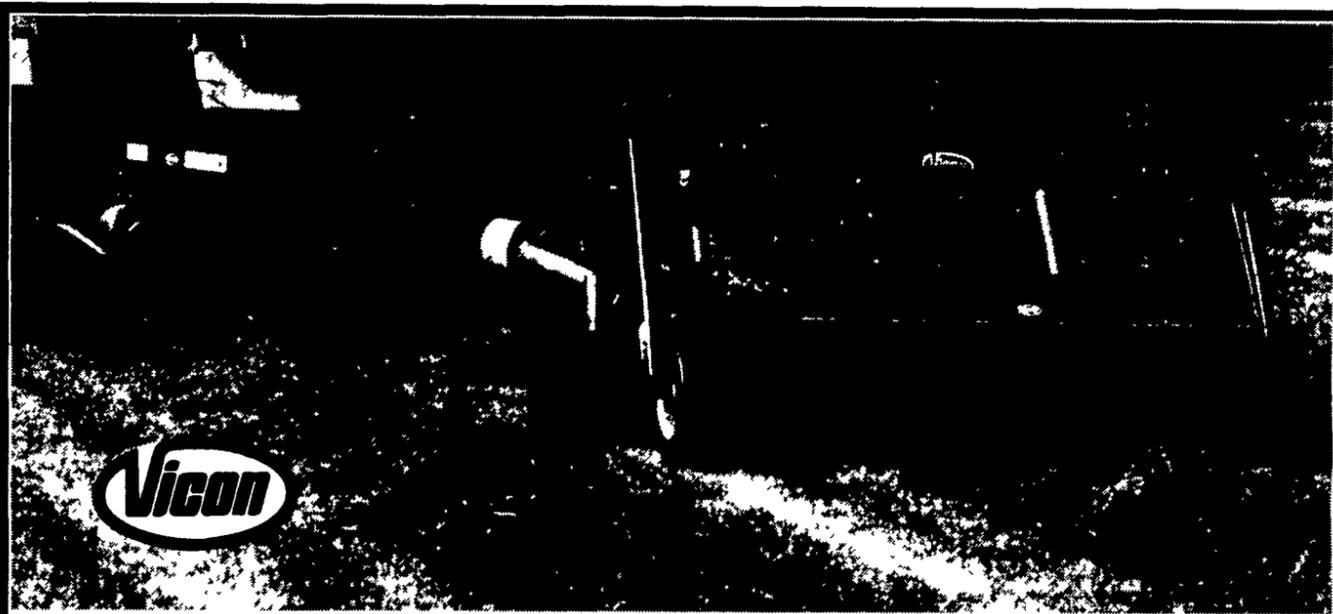
The season for pasture walks, field days, and other informational meetings on the farm is just about to get under way. Let's plan appropriate biosecurity measures now to avoid any problems later on.

There are many sources of information on biosecurity, such as USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's Website, <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ceah/cahm/>; Penn State Cooperative Extension; or The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

If you need more information on this or other grazing issues, stop by any of our local county NRCS offices and discuss your needs with them.

If I can help you in any way, give me a call at (717) 237-2221, e-mail me at duane.pysher@pa.usda.gov, or write to me at NRCS, One Credit Union Place, Suite 340, Harrisburg, PA 17110-2993.

Until next time, *happy grazing!*



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