

Duane E. Pysher
Grassland Management Specialist
Natural Resources
Conservation Service
Harrisburg

I am Duane Pysher, newly elected president of the Pennsylvania Forage and Grassland Council (PFGC) for 2001-2002.

I am pleased and excited to have been elected president of this outstanding organization.

For the past 34 years, I have been employed by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and have worked in several different counties across Pennsylvania.

My position is the grassland management specialist for Pennsylvania. I assumed this position nine years ago after completing my master's

degree and research on intensive rotational grazing of dairy cows on 22 varieties of cool-season grasses at Penn State.

I was born and raised on a dairy farm in Northampton County and have had roots in agriculture my whole life. I have resided in Wernersville, Berks County for the past 22 years.

The Pennsylvania Forage and Grassland Council's membership represents producers, agri-industry representative, and educators with an interest in Pennsylvania's forage industry. This unique membership gives members or farmers the opportunity to network with representatives from all segments of the forage industry. This is a great help in conducting programs for its members that meet membership

needs.

As your new president, I say your input on activities is crucial if we are to meet your expectations. If you have ideas on what PFGC should be doing or offering to members, please let me or another board member know. If you are not a member and would like to become one, I will be happy to provide you with membership materials and an application.

Remember, this is your organization, and if it is to become even better, we need everyone's ideas on how to do that. You can contact me at NRCS, Suite 340, One Credit Union Place, Harrisburg, PA 17110-2993. My e-mail address is duane.pysher@pa.usda.gov and my telephone number is (717) 237-2221.

I look forward to working with you during the year.



The Mite That Roared!

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of timothy for this pest. Scouting procedures have not been fully developed, but producers can collect

representative samples from across their field. Hand lenses are available from most camera stores or mail order catalogs. A minimum of 20 power is recommended.

Costs for a good lens is less than \$25. Look for the mite on the surface side of the youngest leaves.

Immature and adult mites are similar in shape, like a "rice kernel." Eggs can be seen in many cases.

The egg resembles an extremely small, round ball and will be evident across the leaf surface. Most mites and eggs will be seen in between the veins on the leaf. Remember that because of population dynamics, a few mites can rapidly develop into an economic problem. If you do not have access to a hand lens, look for curled tips on the newest leaf blades following spring green up.

Until this spring, there was no effective control product available for use on timothy to control the mite. With the support of Penn State University and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, a supplemental label use, called a "24" was granted for Pennsylvania timothy producers to use Sevin XLR as a temporary solution for the cereal rust mite.

Label directions call for the use of two to three pints per acre of Sevin LXR with adequate carrier for complete coverage of the timothy — a minimum of 20 gallons per acre. Treatment is recommended approximately four weeks after green up to fields with a past history of mite infestation or when 25 percent of plant tillers exhibit curled tips.

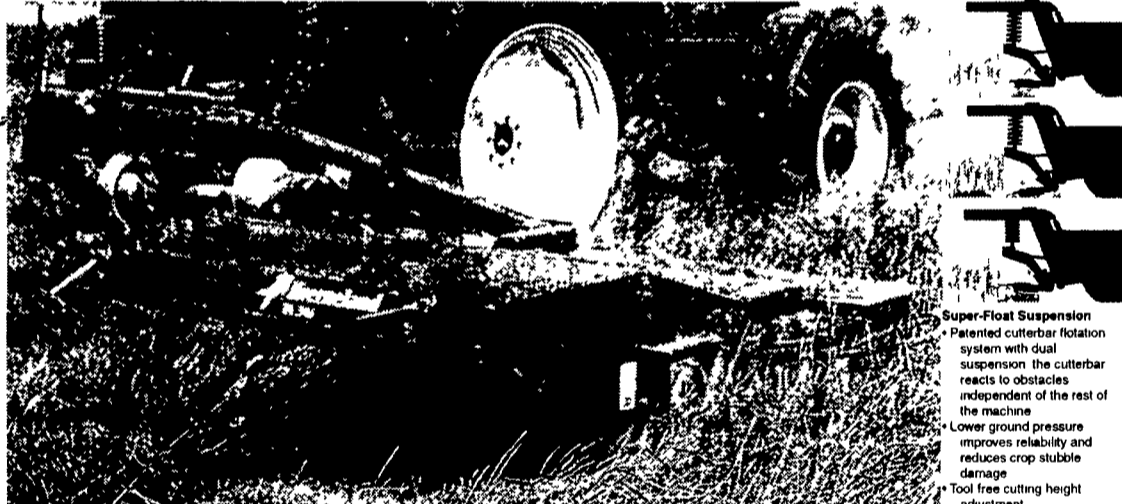
Application is restricted to one time per cutting and must be made at least 30 days prior to harvest. Follow all application directions and safety requirements.

Research is continuing into alternative control methods. Suggestions include flaming, burn-down herbicides, timing of fall harvest, and possibly new miticides. Investigation into possible timothy variety resistance was established this spring in Maryland. Scientists are monitoring population dynamics very closely in an effort to learn more about this new pest. For more information, check out the Website, www.ento.psu.edu/extension/factsheets/cerealarust.html

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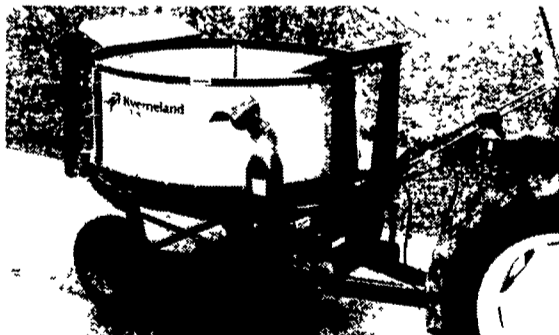
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