



Lancaster Farming SPECIAL

SATURDAY, JULY 14 ISSUE



Pennsylvania Forage and Grassland Council

FORAGING AROUND

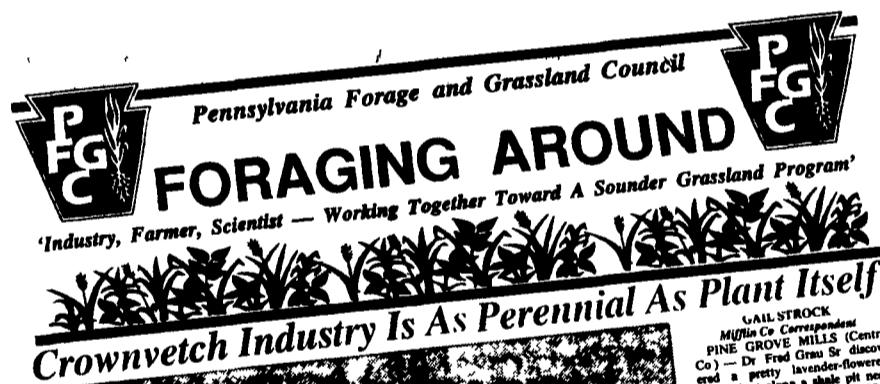


'Industry, Farmer, Scientist — Working Together Toward A Sounder Grassland Program'



2001 PFGC SUMMER NEWSLETTER

Features Pasture Quality



Fred Grau Jr. examines a 30-year-old stand of crownvetch near State College. Crownvetch grows to about two-foot high and is an excellent ground cover.

GAIL STROCK
Mifflin Co. Correspondent
PINE GROVE MILLS (Centre Co.) — Dr. Fred Grau Sr. discovered a pretty lavender-flowered cover plant along a shale pit near Virginville, Berks County, in 1935. Little did he know that it would become one of the most sought-after ground covers for the highway department in the '60s and a sole source of business income for his son, one of only three or four major crownvetch producers in the country.

By discovering crownvetch and developing the production and marketing of the crop, Fred became the founder of the crownvetch industry. "He didn't know what it was," said Fred Grau Jr. "He was an extension agronomist in turf at Penn State in 1935. He brought some back to Penn State and identified it. He immediately saw the erosion control use for it."

"In the late '40s and early '50s, Penn State picked up on the idea of using it. My father, Penn State, the Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Highways together conducted three years of research on crownvetch in the late '40s. Then they released it as Pennifft Crown-

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CAROLYNN MOYER
Bradford Co. Correspondent
TROY (Bradford Co.) — For the Seeley family of Milky Way Farm in Troy, the call of springtime is getting stronger and stronger every day.

It not only signals the start of a new growing season, but a shift in focus for their entire operation.

"We will rotate cows by mid-April, even though there is no grass," said Kim Seeley, who has seen his farming focus change dramatically over the years. "The reason we do that is to get the animals out of the barn. I think it's important to start grazing early just for out mentality. The cows are excited, too. They get spring fever just like we do."

Seeley's grandparents purchased the farm in 1928. In 1962, Kim's

parents, Lewis and Marie, expanded the operation by building a restaurant and juggling operation. Their goal at that time was to earn enough money to put their four children through college, along with Kim and his wife Ann, along with their two sons — Shon, 18 and Dane, 8 — as an integral part of the operation.

For many years the Seeleys ran a conventional dairy along with their juggling operation. In fact, they held the claim to having the oldest freestall barn in Bradford County. After a barn fire, the Seeleys decided to move all the animals to a central location, with the milking animals in total confinement.

"We built a brand-new barn in 1976 because of a barn fire. For eight years we were in total confinement."

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Whole milk chocolate milk is one of the Milky Way's successes. Kim Seeley says that the whole milk and better ingredients set their product apart from the rest. The Seeleys have been operating a juggling plant since 1982.

Photo by Carolyn Moyer, Bradford Co. correspondent



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