

Lancaster Farming SPECIAL

SATURDAY, SEPT. 15 ISSUE



Pennsylvania Forage and Grassland Council

FORAGING AROUND



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



2001 PFGC FALL NEWSLETTER Features Families And Grass-Based Production



Seasonal Dairy Is Good Fit For Family, Pastured Cows
Ed and Sandy Swope of Moratal Farm in Fulton County switched from a year-around confinement dairy operation to a seasonal, pasture-based approach in 1990. They are shown with neighbor, three sons, ages 12 to 21, who also help on the farm. Photo by Dave LeFever

DAVE LEFEVER
Lancaster Farming Staff
NELDMORE (Fulton Co) — Ed and Sandy Swope and their three sons used to manage a milking herd of about 100 cows in a conventional free stall and milking parlor setup in the mid 1990's they decided it was time to make a change. It was a good living, Ed Swope said. But we had absolutely no time to do anything else. The Swopes now run a seasonal dairy in which all of the cows freshen over about a two month period roughly March and April. This allows all of the cows to go into their dry period in mid January giving the Swope family about a month and a half break from milking. The clustered calving also matches the time of peak pasture production with the high point in the cows milk production. (Turn to Page 4)

Careful Planning Results In Pasture Producer Award For Byerly Brothers

GAIL STROCK
Wright Co. Correspondent
LEWISBURG (Union Co) — When Don and Jeff Byerly decided to implement an intensive grazing system six years ago they had three goals in mind — none of which was receiving a statewide award. But careful planning implementation and management of their permanent pastures earned these brothers the 2001 Outstanding Pasture Producer Award which they accepted recently from the Pennsylvania Forage and Grassland Council. "Our goals were to change highly erodible ground from cultivated row crop production into permanent pasture to extend the grazing." (Turn to Page 2)



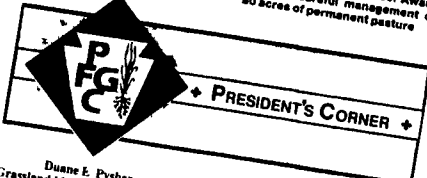
Brothers Don and Jeff Byerly of Lewisburg, Union County, accepted the Pennsylvania Forage and Grassland Council's Outstanding Pasture Producer Award for their careful management of 80 acres of permanent pasture.

Manage Five Elements Of Farming

MICHELLE RANCK
Lancaster Farming Staff
CARLISLE (Cumberland Co) — "I want to prove that a family farm can survive. There are ways to take the cow out and put more on the bottom line," said Bob Boyce, recent winner of the Forage and Grassland Conservation Farmer Award from PFGC. (Turn to Page 8)



Moderate frame, feminine head, straight back focuses on genetics at his grass-based Angus operation, "Lil' Penderosa Enterprises" in Carlisle. Photo by Michelle Ranck



Duane E. Pysher
Grassland Management Specialist
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Hello from your president as well as all of the board of directors of the PFGC. We recently conducted one of our regular board of directors meetings in order to conduct and carry out the business of PFGC. At that meeting we discussed many important issues one of which was the 2001 summer picnic. This annual event brings forage producers and leaders from across Pennsylvania together in an informal atmosphere to enjoy a fun filled evening highlighted by good food and very pleasant surroundings at Evergreen Farms along the beautiful Spruce Creek. Don't forget to send in your reservation and money as soon as possible so you don't miss out. I will be handling reservations this year as Dick Hann will be taking a well deserved vacation. I am looking forward to seeing you there. One of the other items we discussed was the fact that for years PFGC has had a line item in the budget for sponsorship of local forage meetings and field days. In the 2001 budget we have continued that same line item. I asked board member Craig Williams to serve as chairman of the Research and Education Committee. Part of (Turn to Page 3)

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