

Pa. Grazing, Forage Conference, Others Set

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — The planning committees from the Pennsylvania Grazing and Forage Conference, The Northwest Grazing Conference, and Bradford and Tioga Grazing Conference met earlier in the year to plan a central theme for all three conferences.

In the process of deciding on the theme, the combined group of planners decided to invite Charlie Opitz of Mineral Point, Wis. as their main speaker to focus attention on large-herd grazing.

Opitz is a dairy producer who grazes 1,200 lactating cows on a 3,000-acre grazing system. His farm is located in southern Wisconsin, about 40 miles west of Madison. He manages more than 100 paddocks in his grazing system.

Opitz insists that "you have to understand your grasses and how they grow." His pastures comprise a diverse mixture of grasses and legumes, which have developed as a result of his intensive management.

He fertilizes his pastures routinely throughout the grazing season and overseeds them regularly. Opitz will be bringing his large cowherd grazing experience to Pennsylvania to help us understand that grazing is not just for the small herd owner.

In addition to having Opitz at each conference, each will have a battery of different speakers to address various other grazing topics. Many of these topics have been requested by producers who attended past year's conferences.

The conferences are all planned and all the specifics are set. The Northwest Grazing Conference will lead off on March 5 at the Ramada Inn in DuBois. The Pennsylvania Grazing and Forage Conference will happen next on March 6-7 at the Holiday Inn in Grantville. The Bradford and Tioga Grazing Conference will finish the circuit on March 8 at the Fire Hall in Troy.

For registration forms or information, contact Gary Swope at (814) 375-2125 for the Northwest Grazing Conference; Duane Pysker at (717) 237-2221 for the Pennsylvania Grazing Conference; or Craig Williams, (570) 724-9120, for the Bradford and Tioga Grazing Conference.

M.M. Weaver Receives Award



LEOLA (Lancaster Co.) — M.M. Weaver and Sons, Inc., located here, was honored as the Forage Dealer of the Year by Claas.

This award is given annually to recognize a dealer of Claas Harvesters who excels in all areas of the business, including sales.

M.M. Weaver and Sons also won the award for top sales volume of Claas self-propelled harvesters in eastern Pennsylvania.

In photo, from left, Bob Armstrong, Claas North America sales manager; Richard Rutt, M.M. Weaver sales representative; Frank Wilbert, Claas regional sales manager; and Case Koorn, Claas national retail finance manager.

National Youth Horse Leader's Symposium January 25-27

ROCK HILL, S.C. — The American Youth Horse Council's 25th National Youth Horse Leader's Symposium will be held at the Rock Hill Holiday Inn in Rock Hill, S.C.

This 25th anniversary event brings together youth leaders from all riding disciplines to share their collective voices and help shape the equine industry.

The symposium attracts leaders from breed associations, equine sport organizations, extension service, universities, and the crucially important "hands-on" youth leaders from such groups as 4-H, U.S. Pony Club, National High School Rodeo, FFA, and many more.

Symposium events begin Friday evening and run throughout

the weekend with roundtable discussions, lecture-style presentations, live horse demonstrations, and trade show exhibits.

Topics include innovative programs for teaching horse management and care, the impact of horse activities on academic performance, equine industry career opportunities, riding safety, funding equine programs, developing horse and rider partnerships, youth issue roundtables, "horseless" horse projects, and more.

Anyone with an interest in youth and the horse industry is welcome to attend. The conference is arranged with presentation tracks to target the interests of three audiences: youth leaders, adult leaders, and equine industry professionals.

Register by calling 800-879-2942 or by email ayhc@mindspring.com. Registration fees for the Na-

tional Youth Horse Leader's Symposium: Non AYHC Members \$85.00 AYHC Members \$65.00 Youth Teen Leader Participants (Ages 14 to 19 only) \$35.00 (Made payable to the American Youth Horse Council, should be postmarked before Dec. 27)

The Symposium is being held January 25th to 27th at the Rock Hill Holiday Inn at 2640 N. Cherry Road, Rock Hill SC, 29730.

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