

# Lancaster Farming SPECIAL

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9 ISSUE



*Pennsylvania Forage and Grassland Council*

# FORAGING AROUND



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



# 2002 PFGC WINTER NEWSLETTER

## Features Families and Grass-Based Production

**Pennsylvania Forage and Grassland Council**  
**FORAGING AROUND**  
*'Industry, Farmer, Scientist — Working Together Toward A Sounder Grassland Program'*

**Farm Wives: Rotational Grazing Easier, Safer, More Rewarding**

**LOU ANN GOOD**  
*Food And Family Features Editor*  
**KIRKWOOD (Chester Co.)** — If mama ain't happy ain't nobody happy is an often heard quote. One of the ways to keep mama happy according to several farm wives interviewed is to use rotational grazing.

It is the most sensible way to farm. Financial investment is much less than with conventional farming methods and it's much safer, said Caroline Landis who with her husband Arden operate a 140 acre dairy farm in Chester County. Her sentiments are echoed by Carol Greathouse Mercer County who said "The only machinery we have is a golf cart that we drive back and forth to move the tape to section off paddocks on 160 acres. There's no equipment to worry about with having our small children working side-by-side with us."

In Loyalsville, June Hertzler is a vocal advocate of rotational grazing. It's what enabled her and her husband Duane to transform their 370-acre farm with 250 Holsteins from debt ridden to profitable.

The male farmer is most often the outspoken supporter or critic of farming methods. But in the major part of farms, the wife is as qualified in day-to-day chores and is qualified to voice her opinion of what works and what doesn't.

Here's a peek into the lives of three women who are active graziers.

**Carol Greathouse**  
 Carol grew up on a Jersey farm in Berks County. She worked for the Jersey Association and through her responsibilities as informational director, met her husband-to-be David, who was already operating a Jersey dairy farm in Illinois.

After marriage, the couple settled on his Illinois farm, but Carol said "We had little dairy support and agricultural services in that area." So the couple moved to Carol's family's farm and worked for her parents for three years while looking for a place to call their own.

They did not want to settle in an area with land development pressures.

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

I was at the Conservation Education Area of Ag Progress Days from Aug. 14 to 16 where we held a grazing forum each day at 11 a.m. in the presentation tent.

I had a dairy a beef and a sheep producer on the panel to tell their story as to how why when and where they do what they do in a grazing system.

We hear the producer's side of the grazing story. Some come with pictures or graphs or printed copies of their story but they all share their experiences. Folks in the audience are able to ask the panelists questions about grazing and their operations.

As I was sitting here reflecting on some comments made by several panelists I realized that they were discussing operations with low dollar investments in machinery. I have to chuckle because there were Ag Progress Days surrounded by all the latest in brightly colored high technology farm machinery and most of the grazers on the panel were discussing low tech nology. Quite a contrast.

In fact the grazing forum was being conducted at the same time as field demonstrations of forage harvesting equipment. The size of the audience that black smoke and whirling gears attracted was much larger than the audience I had for the grazing forums. Ironically how the grazers are making money paying taxes and not worrying about making the large investment in steel that their counterparts who were in the audience are having to make.

When did we as a society change our way of thinking about taking livestock from a normal grazing scenario to one where they are con-

**PASTURE PONDERINGS**

**Lancaster Farming**  
 Pennsylvania Forage & Grassland Council  
 Newsletter Section September 15, 2001

- Rotational grazing and poultry production.
- Preview, schedule of Pennsylvania Forage and Grazing Conference.
- PFGC news and commentary.
- Farm calendar of events.
- Foraging and grazing columns.

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