

Lancaster Farming SPECIAL

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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

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'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 a much safer said Caroline Landis who with her husband Arden operates 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 Loyalsock, 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 majority of farms, the wife is as involved 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 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.

PASTURE PONDERINGS

Duane E. Fisher
 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 they do in a 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 we were at 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 technology. 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 about tans and not worrying about making the large investment in steel making the large investment in steel that their counterparts who were in that large audience are having to make.

When did we as a society change our way of thinking about talking livestock from a normal grazing scenario to one where they are considered?

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The bunk feeder has been changed into a 16-swing parlor for Arden and Carolyn Landis, Kirkwood. It's a simple setup, Carolyn said, that enables one person to milk up to 120 cows in one hour. Photo by Lou Ann Good.

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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