

## Rotational Grazing

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the roadway during wet periods as it did before.

The quality of the thick pasture growth is maintained by mowing throughout the summer into September for weed control, with an occasional spot spraying for multi-flora rose. In fall Fox uses his side-delivery manure spreader to spread organic compost on the pastures. The manure lagoon from the dairy operation has been modified into a compost pit. Grass clippings, manure from the barn lot, and even cardboard boxes are mixed, creating a compost that is spread over the pastures each fall in a thin layer. The cattle can be returned to these pasture blocks after two to three days of regrowth and will graze as usual.

As for the future, Fox agrees with the saying, "If it's not broke don't fix it." Fox sold off the equipment he no longer needed and currently owns two tractors, a round baler, haybine, hay rake, and manure

spreader. With minimal expenses and few repair and vet bills, Fox feels he is ahead of the game by following the intensive rotational grazing program. He realized he could increase animal numbers if he wanted and could increase weight gain if he were to add a grain supplement to his feed program, but he has been well satisfied with the results when it comes time to market his calves.

Fox feels the most convincing point to promote rotational grazing is the reduced cost and labor of such an operation.

Fox presents a slide show to groups and organizations about the benefits of rotational grazing. Intensive rotational grazing has improved the quality of the farm's soils, and is an environmentally friendly operation. Pond Hollow Farm has been preserved under the Farmland Preservation Program, as are many surrounding farms.

This friendly and cheerful couple recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a party of family and friends. Converting to

intensive rotational grazing has enabled them to enjoy life on the farm, yet allows them time to share. The daily needs of the cattle can easily be handled by their children and grandchildren, allowing the couple to travel and pursue their hobbies and interests.

As Elwood and Pauline Fox drive through their hilltop pastures watching their cattle leisurely enjoy the thick pasture growth, they know they made the right choice when they adopted a rotational grazing program.

## Selecting An Alfalfa Variety

Dr. Marvin Hall  
Penn State University

The choice of which alfalfa variety "is best" for a particular farm is not that easy! Over the past 10 years, Penn State has evaluated more than 150 alfalfa varieties or experimental lines in research trials at three locations in Pennsylvania. A large number of varieties for which adequate data are available have performed satisfactorily in these research trials. The results of these variety evaluation trials appear in the Forage Trials Report, available at your county extension office.

With all of these varieties available, how can the "best" variety be


selected? First of all, there is no "best" variety for all situations. In fact, there probably is not one "best" variety for a single Pennsylvania farm because of the extreme variability in soils across the state. The key to selecting varieties is to identify the two or three varieties that are best suited for a particular situation. The following steps may help identify those suitable varieties:

1. Select varieties that have adequate resistance to the diseases prevalent in your area, on your farm, or in the exact field where the alfalfa will be planted.


2. From these varieties, select those that have persisted well in en-

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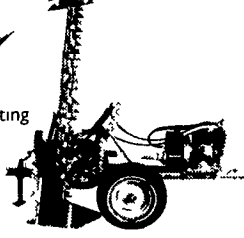
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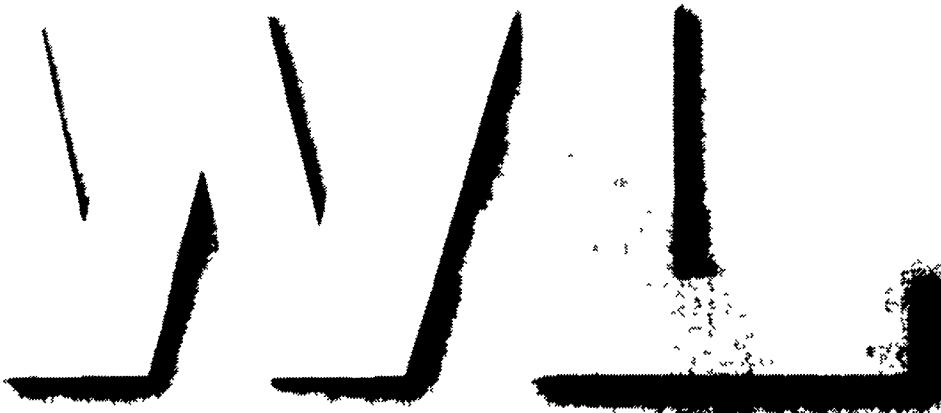
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