

Lancaster Farming SPECIAL

SATURDAY, JULY 13 ISSUE



Pennsylvania Forage and Grassland Council

FORAGING AROUND

'Industry, Farmer, Scientist - Working Together Toward a Sounder Grassland Program'



2002 PFGC SUMMER NEWSLETTER

- features Project Grass -

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

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- Northern PA Grazier
- Northeast Grazing Network/Project Grass
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- President's Corner

Berks County Grazier Maximizes Soil Returns

MICHELLE KUNJAPPI
Lancaster Farming Staff
 ELEVEN years ago changes began taking place in the pastures of Papa Farm.

When Brian Mohn began his pasture-based program it was hard to find information on rotational grazing," he said. "I read *Lancaster Farming* articles and got ideas that migrated from Lancaster."

Mohn along with his wife Karen, and daughters Beverly, 12, Carolyn 10 and Judy, 8 have managed the farm for 11 years for a Philadelphia businessman.

His investigation into grazing came because of a "concern for good usage of the ground," he said. "I wanted to get the most out of this moderately productive ground."

A lot of it was trial and error initially," he said. County agents helped in his education by conducting pasture walks and greater discussions that helped to educate Mohn.

"In the initial days, I traveled to Lancaster for pasture information to learn about water quality projects," he said. Besides adding stream-bank fencing, Mohn has put in his own concrete stream crossings.

Now, "to get a profitable operation, I don't see any other way you can be in the cow/calf business without being in the grazing business," he said. Because of smaller-framed animals with improved genetics — and carefully-maintained pastures that the animals do not have to be fed supplemental hay or grain for the most part, the operation's costs have declined.

Pennsylvania Spokesman
 A year ago, Mohn went to America's Forage and Grassland Council's conference in Springdale, Arkansas as Pennsylvania's spokesman.



Brian Mohn, manager of Papa Farm, moves the fences each day on the farm's rotational grazing system for the 80 Angus cows and their calves. Photo by Michelle Kurdappi

PFGC Mainstay Charts Progress

DAVE LEFVER
Lancaster Farming Staff
HERSHEY (Dauphin Co)
 — Richard Mann knows the history and workings of the Pennsylvania Forage & Grassland Council.

For 34 years, Mann has been a vital part in the organization, handling the finances and acting as chief coordinator of events, board meetings, and membership matters. He has served as secretary-treasurer since 1968. In addition to those responsibilities he assumed a new executive director post in 2000.

Mann recently reflected on PFGC's history, along with changes in agriculture and forage management that have occurred through the years.

First formed in 1960 as the Pennsylvania Grassland Council (PGC), the organization became affiliated with American Grassland Council in 1963. The name was changed to Pennsylvania Forage and Grassland Council in 1978 to more fully recognize its role in the state's forage/livestock industry.

Dr. John Baylor then a Penn State Extension Forage Specialist was the Council's first president and Charles Wolcott, general manager of Milton Hershey Farms (Turn to Page 6)

Dick Mann has been the PFGC's chief coordinator for 34 years. Photo by Dave Lefver

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