

Pennsylvania
Forage and Grassland
Council



Foraging Around

♦ PRESIDENT'S CORNER ♦

Tim Fritz
PFGC President

Spring is just breaking as I write this message. We had a cold, wet fall followed by a tough winter but things are finally looking like spring. Just about everyone is looking forward to

beautiful green fields.

These bright green fields are more than beauty, however. They have the potential to convert sunlight into high quality forage which ruminants convert into

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Frank Stoltzfus with some of the Masonic Homes' beef herd on recently established pasture — part of the purebred Shorthorn operation's new commitment to grazing. Photo by Dave Lefever

Timothy Producers: Check For Mites

Paul H. Craig
Dauphin Co. Crop Agent

Less than four years since first being identified in Pennsylvania, nearly every timothy hay producer in Pennsylvania has heard of the timothy mite and the problems that this pest can cause for timothy hay producers.

First identified in the spring of 2000 in southcentral Pennsylvania, the mite, actually referred to as the cereal rust mite, has spread across the state and has been noted in Delaware, Maryland and New

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Mite-infested timothy showing classical droughted appearance.

Chesapeake Bay Foundation Compiles Resource List For Farmers

DAVE LEFEVER
Lancaster Farming Staff

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Be sure to see the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's comprehensive guide of conservation resources for farmers and landowners in the center spread of this *Foraging Around* issue.

The newly-released Guide to Conservation Funding Programs in Pennsylvania is a cross-referencing field guide identifying conservation practices appropriate for farms, along with available financial support.

David Wise, scientist with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) office in Harrisburg, said farmers and landowners can benefit tremendously from having the various agencies and programs pooled together in one list.

"It's become pretty clear that there's an enormous variety of funding resources out there," Wise said.

He said CBF first recognized the need for such a project in 1997 when it became evident that many farmers and landowners were faced with a wide array of conservation support options from federal, state, and local programs. As an agency with a focus on water quality, helping farmers with good land management, and partnering with a wide range of agencies, Wise said the CBF was in an ideal position to compile the guide.

"We recognized the need and had the ability to respond," Wise said.

The guide was first released earlier this year and was recently updated. For more information, call CBF at (717) 234-5550.

More Grass In Store For Masonic Homes' Shorthorns

DAVE LEFEVER
Lancaster Farming Staff

ELIZABETHTOWN (Lancaster Co.) — The farm at Masonic Homes has an impressive herd of purebred Shorthorn beef cattle, grazing the hills of a unique property.

The Masonic Homes community and farm, founded in 1910, is situated on 1,400 acres just on the edge of Elizabethtown. About 1,500 residents, including 40 school-aged children, live there.

Owned and operated by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, Masonic Homes offers health

care, assisted living, residential living, and retirement accommodations adjacent to its working livestock farm, orchard, and farmer's market.

Since the Masonic Homes Holstein dairy herd was sold last December, farm supervisor Frank Stoltzfus said he has more time to focus on the 150 head of Shorthorn cattle. Part of his attention is centered on switching to a more grass-based system.

Stoltzfus has managed the farm since 1985, including the Shorthorn herd first established by Gerald Tracy, Ma-

sonic Homes environmental services and land management director.

Performance has been the focus of the beef breeding program here for more than 20 years. This work recently earned the farm the 2002 Seed Stock Breeder of the Year award from the Pennsylvania Cattlemen's Association.

Stoltzfus is in the process of changing a sizeable portion of the farm's cropland into permanent grazing paddocks for the beef herd. So far, about 60 acres have been seeded and

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Northeast: 'Huge Potential' For Grazing Irish Brothers Suggest Combined Approach

DAVE LEFEVER
Lancaster Farming Staff

GRANTVILLE (Dauphin Co.) — An abundance of high-quality land and good access to reasonably-priced silages and concentrate feeds suggest that pasture-based systems have a "bright and profitable" future in the Northeast, according to Tom and Dr. John Roche.

The Irish brothers spoke at the annual PFGC conference, which took place in early March at the Grantville Holiday Inn.

The brothers grew up on a dairy farm in the southern part of Ireland, and Tom continues to manage the family's grass-based dairy farm there. The Roches also run a dairy farm in New Zealand, where

John is employed as a nutritional scientist.

Two years ago, the brothers visited several farms in Pennsylvania, Maryland, and New

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