

# Pasture Ponderings

(Continued from Page E10)

me that he is a grazer and has been for several years. He is a topic of discussion for some of his friends and neighbors who wonder how he making a profit because his milk levels dropped since he went to grazing. He also has a side business that provides a limited amount of income, which his peers say is making him his only profit.

Well, Aaron's good friend and neighbor challenged him to put his recordbook on the table and compare bottom lines. Aaron was reluctant, as most of us would be, but because of continued encouragement to do so, he finally relented. At the end of the

comparison, the neighbor realized that Aaron's profit-per-cow was more than \$100 per cow greater than his own. The analysis did not include the side income. A successful grazing story.

If you have any ideas for future "Ponderings" or for the conferences, please contact me by e-mail at [HYPERLINKmailto:duane.pysher@pa.usda.gov](mailto:HYPERLINKmailto:duane.pysher@pa.usda.gov); write to me at NRCS, One Credit Union Place, Suite 340, Harrisburg, PA, 17110-2993; or telephone me at 717-237-2221.

Until next time, happy grazing.

# New PFGC President To Promote Grass-Based Marketing, Youth Programs

**DAVE LEFEVER**  
*Lancaster Farming Staff*

**GRANTVILLE** (Dauphin Co.) — Tim Fritz of King's AgriSeeds has been named the new Pennsylvania Forage and Grassland Council president for a year's term.

Fritz grew up on a dairy farm near Bridgeport, Lancaster County, and went on to graduate from Penn State in 1986 with a bachelor's degree in agronomy. He then traveled to Washington State University to earn his master's degree in the field.

Returning to his home state in 1988, Fritz went to work as an agronomy and dairy agent for Penn State Cooperative Extension in Montgomery County, a position he held until 1997.

In the early 1990s, Fritz began to take an interest in grass-based production and "got the grazing bug," he said.

He credits Brian Moyer, a dairy farmer then in Montgomery County and now a grazer in Bradford County, for influencing his shift toward grazing and grassland systems.

In 1993-1994, Fritz helped convert the Fritz family farm to a grazing dairy. Then, in 1997, he



Tim Fritz

moved to Springfield, Tenn., to assist his brother Jack Fritz with his new dairy operation there.

He returned to Pennsylvania in 1999 and worked as farm management agent for Lancaster and Chester Counties until 2001, when he took a job as an Ampac Seeds representative.

In mid-June of last year, he went to work as agronomist for King's Agri-Seeds, covering "about the whole state of Pennsylvania" in his travels.

Fritz said his goals as PFGC president will be to "continue to see us have a focus on applied production

and a balance between grazing and hay production."

He also intends to promote more marketing of grass-based products, a move that, at least in part, comes from personal experience with a new way of eating. Fritz said he has been following for about a year the research on the health benefits of a grass-based diet for humans.

"I now personally eat a lot of that food," Fritz said, noting that he has found local sources of grass-fed beef and poultry. "It really does taste better."

He is also looking for a local producer of pasteurized, grass-fed milk.

In seeking ways to help graziers market their unique products, "I'm still learning where the opportunities are," Fritz said.

He said he will also help promote a new youth program, organized in part by Pennsylvania's Project Grass, in which FFA and 4-H kids will participate in pasture evaluation contests.

Fritz lives in Atglen with his wife Carolyn and children Ashley, 12; Taylor, 10; Harrison, 7; and Madison, 6.

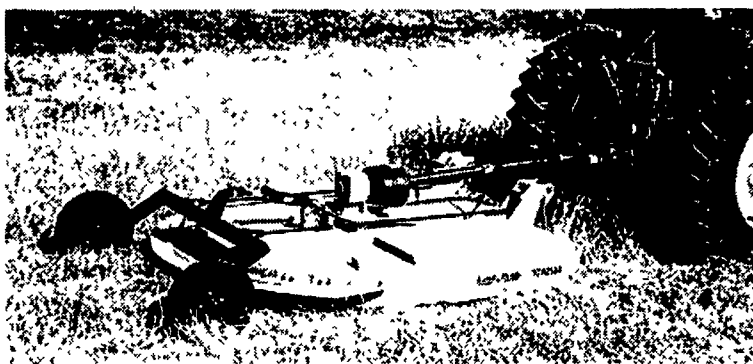
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## Study Looks At Yield and Persistence Of Bolting-Resistant Chicory Varieties

**Matt A. Sanderson**  
USDA-ARS  
University Park

A challenge in managing forage chicory is dealing with "bolting" or rapid growth of the flower stalks in spring.

Varieties with reduced bolting potential are available. In a three-year field-plot study at Rocksprings, we evaluated commercial forage varieties and European root-type varieties of chicory for yield, bolting, and persistence under clipping.

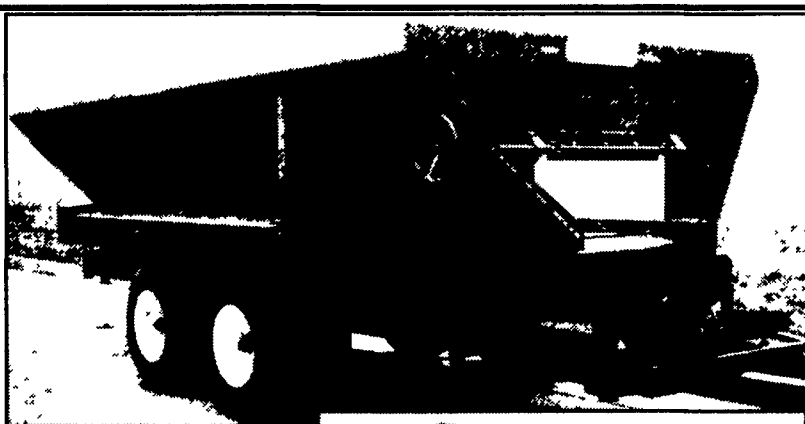
'Grasslands Puna', 'Lacerta', and 'Forage Feast' forage-type chicory, and 'Dagerrad', 'Halle', and 'Katrein' root-crop chicory cultivars were sown in field plots in May 1999. Forage yield was measured monthly and the percentage of bolting was estimated visually.

The varieties did not differ in forage dry matter yield in 2000 (average of 6,700 pounds dry matter/acre). Grasslands Puna and Lacerta yielded more dry matter than other varieties in 2001.

Chicory varieties differed in their persistence and degree of bolting. More than 80 percent of Lacerta chicory plants bolted during both years, and Lacerta suffered an 89 percent loss of plants during 1999 to 2002. Less than 50 percent of Forage Feast and the root-type chicory plants bolted, but these varieties did not produce as much dry matter and were less persistent than Puna.

After three years, Puna had the highest plant density (nine plants per square foot)

and Lacerta the lowest (two plants per square foot). Forage Feast had 5 plants per square foot and the European varieties averaged 6 plants per square foot after three years. The results indicate that some chicory varieties show less bolting but have lower levels of persistence than other varieties.



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