

(Continued from Page A10)

Invasive Plants Workshop and Tour for Woodland Owners, Franklin County extension office, Chambersburg, 8:30 a.m.-noon, (717) 263-9226.

Maryland Shorthorn Association's Dynamic Duo Spotlight Sale, Frederick Fairgrounds, 6 p.m., (301) 898-5152.

Sunday, October 26

Daylight Saving Time ends; Eastern Standard Time begins.

New York Compost Advanced Short Course, Holiday Inn, Ithaca, N.Y., thru Oct. 29, (607) 255-1187.

The Weekend Gardener: Propagating Conifers and Evergreens, Tyler Arboretum, Media, 1:30 p.m.-3 p.m., (610) 566-9134.

Monday, October 27

First Annual Glynwood Harvest Awards, Earth Pledge Carriage House, New York City, (609) 397-6200.

Pa. Recycling Professional Certification Program, county extension office, Franklin, Venango counties.

Pa. Project Grass Conference and Grazing Farm Field, Days Inn, State College, thru Oct. 28, (814) 445-8979, ext. 101.

Tuesday, October 28

Northeast Professional Dairy Heifer Growers, Batavia, N.Y., thru Oct. 29, (717) 361-9620.

Pa. Recycling Professional Certification Program, Richland High School, Gibsonia.

Solanco Young Farmers Meeting, Solanco High School, Quarryville, 7:30 p.m.

Southeast Regional Christmas Tree Growers' Meeting, Berks County Ag Center, Leesport, 7 p.m., (570) 622-4225.

Sullivan County Conservation, Forest Ecology and Silviculture, 8 a.m.

Wednesday, October 29

Safe Food Handling Cooking for Crowds, Bucks County Extension, Neshaminy Center, Doylestown, 6 p.m.-9 p.m.

ADADC District Meeting, Oxford Methodist Church, Oxford, N.Y., (607) 895-6641.

Certified Crop Adviser Fall Seminar, Grantville Holiday Inn, thru Oct. 30, (717) 840-7408.

Pa. Recycling Professional Program, Dallastown Area High School, Dallastown.

Beef Producers' meeting, York County 4-H Center, 7:30 p.m., (717) 246-2329.

New Holland Sales Stables Annual Dairy Show and Sale Judging, Sales Stables, New Holland, judging 9 a.m., sale 11 a.m., show winners noon,

(717) 354-4341.

Thursday, October 30

Ibberson Forestry Forum, University Park, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., (814) 865-7554.

Wayne County Program on Local Government, Wayne County Visitors' Center, Community Room, Honesdale, 7 p.m., (570) 253-5970, ext. 239.

Pa. Recycling Professional Certification Program, Marywood University, Scranton.

Franklin County Master Gardeners Program, Trees and Shrubs, Franklin Human Services Building, Chambersburg, 7 p.m.-9 p.m., (717) 263-9226.

Chester County Annual Holstein meeting, West Fallowfield Christian School, Atglen, 6:45 p.m.

Friday, October 31

Pa. Graded Feeder Cattle Sale, Middleburg Livestock Auction, Middleburg, 7 p.m., (717) 837-2222.

Pa. Recycling Professional Certification Program, West Goshen Twp. Building, West Chester.

Saturday, November 1

ADADC District Meeting, Catherine Methodist Church, Odesa, N.Y.

Franklin County Master Gardeners Garden Visit, (717) 263-9226.

N.J. Draft Horse and Mule Association's Field Days, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. each day, thru Nov. 2, (908) 879-7189.

"Enhancing the Watershed Forest" Conference, Treadway Inn and Conference Center, Bradford County Extension, Owego, N.Y., 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Forestry Stewardship, Frederick Community College, Frederick, Md., 9 a.m.-4 p.m., (301) 631-3576.

Sunday, November 2

Standardbred Horse Sale, thru Nov. 8, (717) 637-8931.

Monday, November 3

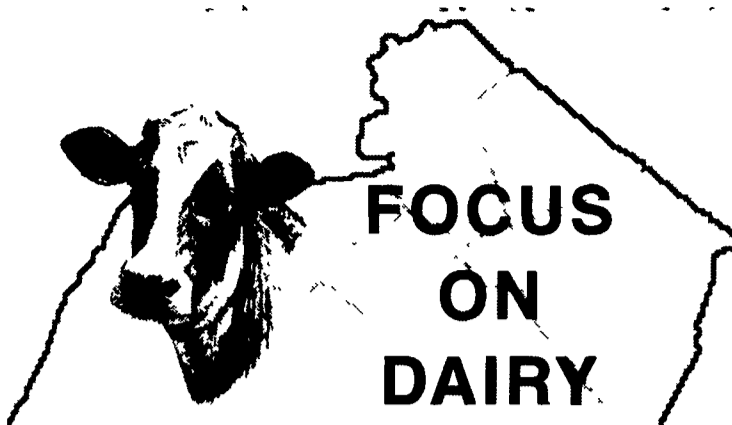
Beef Quality Assurance Program, Clarion, Butler, Venango, and Armstrong counties, Clarion County Extension office, Shippenville, 6:30 p.m., (717) 939-7000.

Tuesday, November 4

Berks County extension holiday programs, Leesport, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Also Nov. 5.

Accounting Methods for Progressive Dairies, Penn State, Harrisburg Campus, thru Nov. 5, (888) 373-7232.

Pa. Beef Quality Assurance Program, Crawford, Erie, Venango counties, Days Inn Hotel, Meadville, 6:30 p.m., (717) 939-7000.



Penn State Cooperative Extension Capitol Region Dairy Team

MAKING USE OF LOW-QUALITY FORAGE

Philip E. Wagner
Extension Agent — Dairy
Franklin County

One of the prime concerns for dairy producers is forage quality and quantity.

High-quality forage is an important factor in obtaining efficient milk production, normal milk composition and quality, and good health and reproduction. Whenever possible, the forage ration should contain a minimum of 60 percent TDN on a dry-matter basis. In addition, it should be relatively low in toxic factors such as nitrates and molds and be reasonably palatable.

Wet conditions during growth and harvest often lower nutrient content and palatability. This has especially been the case this year for a lot of small grain silage, hay crop silage, and dry hay. I have listed some feed management points to keep in mind when incorporating low quality forages into the ration following an adverse weather year like we have just gone through in Pennsylvania.

• Limit intakes of high fiber, low energy forage with less than 55 percent TDN to 1.4 to 1.8

pounds of dry matter per CWT of body weight daily in order to avoid depressions in total dry matter intake and milk production. Fill in the ration with better forages. While intake should be limited, low-quality forage may have to be fed heavier than usual to attain even limited intakes. This enables animals to choose the better portions. Sprinkling with a mixture of molasses and water sometimes will help attain minimum intake.

• Adjust amounts and kinds of forage fed to provide at least 58-60 percent TDN in the forage dry matter fed to milking animals. Use of corn silage and fall cuttings of hay crop can help attain this goal.

• Lower-quality forage may be used relatively heavier for young stock at more than 10-12 months old and dry cows, if the ration is properly balanced.

• Avoid feeding spoiled or putrefied forage, especially to cows close to freshening or in early lactation. Such feed may adversely affect intakes, production and health, including a greater risk of a displaced abomasum.

• Feed forages containing a lot of mold or mustiness in reduced amounts when possible. Higher intakes of such forage may reduce total dry matter intake and

performance as well as reduce resistance to disease. Keep air contamination with mold at a minimum to prevent fungal infections in the lung or reproductive tract.

• Watch for signs of mycotoxin problems such as an unexplained reduction of total dry matter intake, reduced production, and a black or blood-tinged diarrhea. Test suspected feeds including small grains, high moisture corn, and dry shelled corn this year for mycotoxins. Extremely moldy feed may have less mycotoxin present than material with few signs of mold present. Separately test material further removed from the very moldy spots, as well as the badly molded feed.

• Consider purchase of better forage when necessary to maintain adequate performance. When no high quality alfalfa hay or haylage is available on the farm, consider purchasing enough good alfalfa to feed 2-3 pounds of dry matter per head daily. Feeding even these limited amounts of alfalfa may help improve feed utilization and performance. Alfalfa should contain at least 19-20 percent crude protein on a DM basis to be considered for this use.

• Test all forages and grains at least several times throughout the year and properly balance rations.

• Try certain feeds or additives to enhance performance on low-quality forages. This would include such items as alfalfa pellets, sodium bicarbonate, and live cell yeast culture.

• Heavier concentrate feeding may be needed on some farms with lower quality forage.

The current and upcoming feeding season will present a challenge on many dairy farms. Dairy producers will need to work closely with their dairy nutrition consultant to strike a balance between production performance, cow health, and economical rations.

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