PENNSYLVANIA
FORAGE and GRASSLAND
COUNCIL
http://www.afgc.org/pennsylvania.php

American Forage and
Grassland Council
Affiliate
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PENNSYLVANIA FORAGE and GRASSLAND NEWS

Volume 28, No. 3, Summer 2018

Supporting Members of PFGC

Many businesses support the PFGC through their membership and involvement in many of the PFGC sponsored activities. Our supporting members for 2018 are listed below.

AgChoice Farm Credit
Barenbrug, USA
Delmhorst Inst. Co.
Ernst Conservation Seeds
Fulton Bank-AG
New Holland N.A. Inc.
Timac, USA. Inc.
W-L Alfalfas
AMPAC Seed Co.
Chemgro Seeds
Dow AgroSciences, LLC
Farmshine Publications
King's AgriSeeds
Seedway, Inc.
Waypoint Analytical

2018 Ag Progress Days

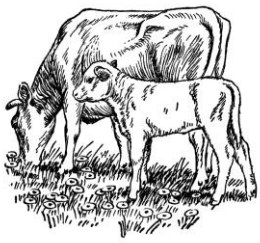
Dates and times for Penn State's Ag Progress Days:

August 14, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
August 15, 9 a.m. – 8 p.m.
August 16, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Located at the Russell E. Larson Agricultural Research Center, 2710 W. Pine Grove Rd, Pennsylvania Furnace, PA. **Visit our Hay Show Display in the Harrington Building!**

2019 Forage Conferences

Plans are currently underway for the 2019 Forage Conferences. We will be having satellite locations for forage producers all over the state to join the conference via several locations. Keep an eye out for updates and information in the next edition of Pennsylvania Forage and Grassland News!



PFGC is now on Social Media!

Find us on Facebook by searching 'Pennsylvania Forage and Grassland Council' to keep up with updates and important links!

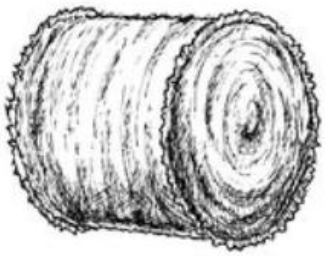
Baleage – An Opportunity for High Quality Forage

As fall approaches, weather patterns begin to change to less-than-ideal for harvesting dry hay properly. Wrapping wet bales for baleage could help to ensure your hay fields are harvested at the correct stage of maturity, providing adequate quality for livestock.

First and foremost, good quality baleage must be achieved by baling at the proper moisture content. Rather than aiming for 16-20% moisture, which is the common target for dry hay, forage can be baled for baleage at 45-65% moisture. The proper moisture content allows for optimal fermentation after the bale is covered and sealed and oxygen can no longer penetrate the bale.

When individually wrapping bales, plastic should be about one mil (25 microns) thick low-density polyethylene and each bale should be wrapped a minimum of 6 times, but 8 is more ideal, with at least a 50% overlap. As the bale is wrapped, the plastic is stretched thinner than the original material, causing the need for multiple layers to ensure elimination of oxygen, sunlight, and excess moisture. If the bales being wrapped have sharp stems, more layers of plastic can be useful in preventing holes from being poked through the wrap, allowing air to infiltrate the bale. More

mature, lower quality forage or drier hay should also have more layers, ensuring the complete elimination of oxygen.



Wrapping within 4 hours of baling is the ideal timeframe to help ensure proper fermentation and reduce the exposure of the bale to air. However, it is often not possible to wrap right away after baling, but research has shown that wrapping within 24 hours after baling can help to ensure the internal temperature in the bale does not reach a level that will cause heat damaged proteins. Wrapping close to the area where the bales will be stored helps to lessen the probability of plastic getting torn during transportation. Storing the wrapped bales in a well-drained area where water will not accumulate on the ground is essential.

Paying attention to small details can help to increase the quality of your wrapped forage. Turning up the density to the maximum ability of your baler can also help to prolong bunk life and eliminate oxygen quickly after wrapping. The addition of bacterial inoculants can help to ensure proper and consistent fermentation throughout the entire bale.

Fall weather can be a challenge to harvest high quality forages, but if wrapping bales for baleage is an option on our operation, good, nutritious forage can be attained the first through your final cutting of the year.

Source: Jessica Williamson, Penn State Extension

PFGC Hay Show at Ag Progress Days

As you make hay this year, pull a couple of your best bales and store them in a dry spot so that when Ag Progress Days rolls around you will have easy access to them. The Hay Show is located inside the Harrington Building at the end of East 5th Street. Hay samples delivered to Ag Progress Days on Tuesday, August 14 should be dropped off at the special **Hay Sample Drop-off Point** located along the East entrance to Ag Progress Days. **Deadline for sample delivery is 10:00 a.m. on August 14.**

Please take note

that the hay classes have changed from years past. Section I will include only completely field-cured hay, and Section II will include heat or mechanical drying, as well as added hay preservatives.

Additional classes have been added to showcase the diversity of hay grown in Pennsylvania and expand the educational value of the show.

All members of the Pennsylvania Forage and Grassland Council can enter any number of samples without a charge. All other non-member exhibitors will be charged $10/sample. Entry fees must accompany hay samples. CREDIT CARDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Must have check or cash.

Checks payable: PA Forage & Grassland Council

If exhibitor is not a member of the PFGC and would like to join, membership brochure can be found at http://www.afgc.org/pennsylvania.php or contact Terri Breon at (814)355-2467 to be mailed to the exhibitor or membership can be paid with sample delivery.

The opportunity to become a member will be available at the drop off site at APD, but membership brochures are also available online at the PFGC website.

Rules

1. Entries officially close at 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, August 14, 2018. However, to facilitate handling of samples, exhibitors are urged to deliver their samples to the hay show building on Monday, August 13. Hay shipped or delivered prior to August 1 should be clearly identified as Hay Show Sample and addressed as follows:
   Terri Breon
   PA Forage and Grassland Council
   174 Crestview Drive
   Bellefonte, PA 16823
2. ***All members of the Pennsylvania Forage and Grassland Council can enter any number of samples without a charge. All other non-***

member exhibitors will be charged $10/sample. Entry fees must accompany hay samples.

3. The hay shown must have been grown by the Exhibitor in Pennsylvania in 2018.
4. Exhibitors may enter in as many classes as they wish, **but no exhibitor shall have more than one entry in a class**, either in his own name, the name of the farm, or the name of some other person.
5. Exhibitors must attach an entry blank, giving name, address, county and class in which the exhibit is to be entered. Exhibitors can secure additional entry blanks at their County Agricultural Extension Office.
6. LONG HAY FROM ANY BALES (small square, large round or large square) THAT HAVE BEEN CURED (adequately dry) can be entered. **An exhibit must consist of a bale section 4 to 6 inches thick, 12 inches high and 18 inches wide**. Thin or moist samples will be disqualified.
7. SAMPLES MUST BE TIED WITH TWINE.
8. Judging will be based on both visual characteristics and forage quality analysis.
9. Unless disapproved by the exhibitor, samples will be stored for exhibit in the Hay Show at the 2019 Pennsylvania Farm Show. To receive cash prizes from the Farm Show you must provide them with your Social Security Number. Mail the attached tear-off tab directly to the Farm Show.

2018 Hay Show brochures are available on the PFGC website:
http://www.afgc.org/pennsylvania.php

Is a Longer Chop Better?

Recently, there has been interest in the dairy industry of lengthening the theoretical length of cut (TLOC) of corn silage from its industry standard of 19 millimeters (mm) to a longer 26 mm cut (moving from ¾ to 1-inch).

"Farms feeding most of their forage as corn silage, desiring more physically effective fiber (peNDF) in the silage to displace dry hay or straw from the TMR (total mixed ration), have expressed the most interest," Randy Shaver, professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, said at the 2018 Iowa-Wisconsin Silage Conference held in Dubuque, Iowa.

"People want to chop corn silage longer, but the longer the particle length, the harder it is to process the kernel," the extension dairy specialist explained. He went on to suggest that a 40 to 50 percent speed differential between rolls has now improved kernel processing.

While modern processors with a greater roll speed differential are better able to create a longer particle size, is that really the best for cows?

The University of Wisconsin-Madison conducted a pair of feeding trials to compare different lengths of TLOC to the industry standard. There was no measured improvement in milkfat content or rumination time, which are indicators of peNDF.

Researchers from Italy, Cornell University, and the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine conducted a study on the length of particles following mastication or chewing during eating. They found that the length of particles entering the rumen had very little correlation with the feed particle length.

Forage particle length does influence eating time, but since particle size entering the rumen is rather uniform due to mastication, there is no effect on rumination (cud chewing) times or rumen fiber mat formation.

However, chopping forage particles to a length that is at or below the critical size for swallowing reduces eating and rumination times, which then reduces peNDF.

"More research is needed on longer chopping if the practice continues to be of interest to dairy managers and their consultants," Shaver stated.

There are some potential downsides to a longer TLOC such as poor silo packing, more feed sorting, and reduced kernel processing. All three of these factors were measured in the University of Wisconsin-Madison study and were unaffected by the longer-chop treatment.

"Whether or not issues in these areas emerge for long chop silages most likely depends on silage and TMR moisture contents, harvest equipment type and setup, and management of the silo packing and TMR mixing and delivery processes," Shaver explained.

Source: Kassidy Buse, Hay & Forage Grower, July 10, 2018

Don't forget to visit us at the Pennsylvania Hay Show at Ag Progress Days!
August 14-16, 2018
and plan to attend the Annual PFGC picnic, Wed. evening after visiting APD starting at 4:00 with appetizers and dinner at 5:30!

Pennsylvania Forage & Grassland Council

Terri Breon, PFGC Exec. Secretary
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Bellefonte, PA 16823
(814) 355-2467
paforagegrassland@gmail.com

Upcoming Events in your Area!

- **Penn State's Ag Progress Days**
  Rock Springs, PA
  August 14-16, 2018

Check out our new website!

Visit http://www.afgc.org/pennsylvania.php to stay up-to-date with PFGC events and news!

"Like" PFGC on Facebook!

Like Pennsylvania Forage and Grassland Council to keep up with updates and important links! Don't forget to click the thumbs up button before you leave the page!

Plan to join us for our annual picnic during Ag Progress Days

Wednesday, August 15, 2018

at the pavilion at Rock Springs Agronomy Farm!

- *Appetizers: 4:00 p.m.*
- *Forage Research Tour: 4:30 p.m.*
- *Dinner: 5:30 p.m.*

PFGC Officers and Board

The following is a list of the current officers and Board of Directors of the PFGC. If you have questions, concerns or suggestions on how the PFGC could serve you better, please contact one of these people.

Officers

President	Andrew Frankenfield	(610) 489-4315
Vice President	David Fink	(610) 767-2409
Exec. Vice-Pres.	Jessica Williamson	(814) 865-9552
Secretary/Treasurer	Terri Breon	(814) 355-2467

Board of Directors

Producer

David Hunsberger	Mifflintown, PA
Ron Hoover	Port Matilda, PA
Dale Stoltzfus	Schuylkill Haven, PA

Public

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Justin Brackenrich	Penn State Extension
Sarah Dohle	Delaware Valley University

Industry

Mike Kuhns	Chemgrow Seeds
David Fink	Heidel Hollow Farm
Kurt Rovenolt	Rovendale Ag & Barn, Inc.

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