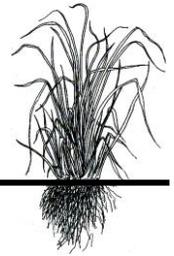




PENNSYLVANIA
FORAGE and GRASSLAND
COUNCIL
<http://www.afgc.org/pennsylvania.php>

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PENNSYLVANIA FORAGE and GRASSLAND NEWS

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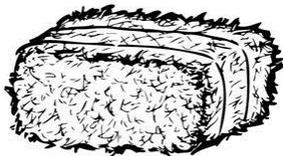
Supporting Members of PFGC

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

Save Your Hay Samples for the Ag Progress Days Hay Show

As you make hay this year, pull a couple of your best bales and store them in a dry spot so that when APD rolls around you will have easy access to them. Hay Show entry forms will



be sent with the Summer PFGC News. *PLEASE TAKE NOTE that the 2017 classes and rule changes will continue to be implemented for the 2019 Hay Show.*

Rules will be carefully outlined in the Hay Show

brochure, as well as in Lancaster Farming press releases.

Forage Conference held in February

This past February, the PFGC held the annual Pennsylvania Forage Conference on Thursday, February 21, 2019 at the Grantville Holiday Inn. Industry professionals and farmers had a full day of educational topics from industry-leading speakers! There were also satellite locations available for attendees to view the speakers at county extension offices across the state!

The conference is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Forage and Grassland Council in cooperation with Penn State Extension. The PFGC hopes to continue with satellite conference locations so keep an eye out for future

information on the 2020 Pennsylvania Forage Conference!

Penn State has a Plant Disease Clinic – Free for in-state samples!

Would you like information on a plant disease you are seeing in the field? Penn State has FREE submission for Pennsylvania residents for sample evaluation! When submitting plant samples:

- Fill in as much information as possible on submission forms and mark if you are a **COMERCIAL PRODUCER** so that your sample will take priority in the lab over hobby gardeners.
- Send in whole plant samples including roots, securely wrapped and fresh. Sending a range of samples with healthy, slight and severe samples can help diagnosticians to identify the pest through disease progression.
- Take pictures at the field view, whole plant and symptoms close-up. The context of how the plants symptoms are showing up in the field helps diagnosticians to know if the problem is isolated to one field section or spread very far.
- Submit samples early in the week, so they are not sitting in the loading dock over the weekend.

Complete instructions are on the Penn State Plant Disease Clinic website:

<https://plantpath.psu.edu/facilities/plant-disease-clinic>

Contact information:

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Article: Sarah Dohle, Delaware Valley Univ.

Weed Issues Following Extreme Wet

Weeds come in all shapes and sizes, and many folks have a hard time figuring out what weed they have in their field. If you do not know what you are dealing with, you can't take the best course of action.

A warmer, wetter year

Overall, 2018 was the second wettest year on record [for many portions of the country]. The old adage is "one year of seeding equals seven years of weeding," so proactive management is critical to avoid headaches down the line.

Identifying weed problem areas

Weeds are opportunistic and look for areas where other plants do not do as well. A strong stand of forage is your greatest tool to combat weed issues. Manage your stand accordingly through liming, fertilizer, and do not overgraze. Areas where weeds take hold are going to be in overgrazed pastures, low-lying areas where water pools and collects, roadways into and through pastures, field edges, ditch banks and areas around ponds or creeks. In years like last year where there is significant wet, forage stands were damaged due to equipment and animal traffic, flooding, etc. These areas should be reseeded to encourage forage regrowth and prevent weeds from taking hold.

Weeds that prefer wet conditions

There are a couple of ways to control weeds that prefer wet areas: culturally and chemically. Typically, cultural practices can take care of many weed issues, but often, it's the combination of cultural and chemical that does the trick. Again, a strong stand of forage is your greatest

tool to combat weed issues. If your field has improper drainage and there are areas of constant wet, fix the drainage issue first, then utilize other means of control.

Sedges

Yellow and purple nutsedge prefer wet areas and can be persistent from year to year due to underground tubers. Many folks refer to these weeds as "nutgrass," although they are technically not grasses. These weeds are sneaky because they look like grass but are difficult to control. Animals prefer not to graze them and do not like the seedheads. Consistent mowing can reduce the number of tubers produced, and applications of imazapic (Impose, Panoramic) or sulfosulfuron (Outrider) can do a good job controlling these species.

Foxtails

Foxtails are particularly bad in wet years as they often move into voids in pastures where hay has been fed, or soil disturbed due to equipment or animal movement. Foxtails can injure mouths of animals due to prickly awns. Annual foxtails (green, yellow and giant) can be controlled with the early application of pendimethalin (Prowl) prior to emergence and can be controlled with imazapic or nicosulfuron + mesosulfuron (Pastora) after emergence. Knotroot foxtail (a perennial foxtail) is difficult to control, and additional research for chemical and cultural controls is under investigation.

Japanese stiltgrass

This species prefers wet, wooded areas and is likely to be problematic around field edges. They can cause issues with drainage due to producing large mats of grass. They are prolific seed producers and can be very shade tolerant. The best means of control for this species is removing the wet conditions and using spot treatments of glyphosate or imazapic when young and newly emerged. Pendimethalin before emergence reduces the numbers of plants that will emerge.

Buttercup

Buttercup can be problematic in overgrazed fields or when there are weak winter or fall stands. It is a species that can be toxic to livestock, but is not a preferred forage and is usually avoided. Mowing these plants prior to flowering greatly reduces seed production. Herbicides are also an option, as this species can be controlled with 2,4-D, dicamba, triclopyr (PastureGard), metsulfuron (Cimarron) or 2,4-D + aminopyralid (GrazonNext). Care should be taken when applying products containing 2,4-D or dicamba, as these can volatilize and move off-target, damaging sensitive crops.

Summary

- A strong stand of forage is your greatest tool to combat weed issues.
- Identify problem areas, fix the problem and then use chemical controls.
- Get your pre-emergent herbicides out early before problematic weeds emerge.
- Apply post-emergence herbicides when weeds are small.

Article: Nicholas T. Basinger, Univ. of Georgia, Progressive Forage, May 2, 2019

Grazing Residue Height Matters

Any grazier knows that pasture management is as much of an art as it is a science. Skilled and seasoned graziers understand how important it is to keep a close eye on pastures as livestock are grazing, and often a drive-by evaluation of a pasture is not good enough to fully see what is going on out there - it requires us to get out of the truck and get our boots on the ground, walking the field to evaluate the current status. Often over-grazed pastures can appear to have more residue - or stubble - than they have when driving by or viewing from a vehicle window.

In the spring when conditions are favorable for cool-season perennial pasture growth (the most common type of pasture in Pennsylvania), it can seem simple to graze and get regrowth of forages after the animals have been rotated to a new paddock in a rotational grazing system. However, as the growing season progresses and the temperature becomes warmer and cool season forage growth slows, grazing management becomes even more critical if adequate pasture regrowth is desired.

**Save the Date
for the
2020 Pennsylvania Forage Conference!**

February 19, 2020
Dauphin County Extension Office
with 4 satellite locations across the state!

Typically, a grazing residue height of 3-4" in cool season perennial grasses is recommended. During the peak growing season, graziers can easily graze more towards the 3" mark and still get adequate pasture regrowth if animals are removed from the paddock and pasture is allowed time to regrow - typically for 21-28 days. However, as the summer encroaches and temperatures rise, forage growth will slow and often precipitation slows - and in some years, stops! It is important to remember that what is above the soil in terms of stubble height is reflected below the soil with root depth and mass. In other words, if the grass is grazed to a 1.5" stubble, there will likely only be 1.5" of root mass and depth below the soil surface. This isn't an adequate root system for forages to seek water availability during times of stress - high heat and water deficiency. Therefore, it is recommended that during those times of water deficit and high temperatures, a grazing residue height of 4-4.5" would be ideal, allowing the forage to have an adequate root system to seek out the nutrients necessary for regrowth during times of stress.

In the fall, as the seasons change and the temperature begins to once again cool, pasture regrowth of cool season perennials will jump once again. However, the plants are preparing to go dormant for the winter months. It is critical, once again, to not graze too close to the soil surface for that final grazing in the fall before winter. Research has shown that the higher the residue or stubble height in the fall, the sooner the pasture is able to be grazed in the spring and the more biomass is available the following grazing season.

So keep a grazing stick behind your truck seat and get out there and measure the pasture residue height. When it gets down to 3", make sure that livestock are being rotated to a pasture with at least 6-8" of forage growth and allow the previously grazed pasture adequate time to regrow.

Article: Jessica Williamson, Penn State

Plan to join us for our
PFGC Annual Picnic
during Ag Progress Days
Wednesday, August 15, 2019
at the pavilion at
Rock Springs Agronomy Farm!

Forage Tour starts at 4; Dinner starts at 5:30

Adults - \$15
Children under 10 - \$9
Children under 4 - FREE

More details and information in the Summer newsletter



**Pennsylvania
Forage &
Grassland
Council**

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Upcoming Events in your Area!

- **Penn State’s Diagnostic Clinic**
Rock Springs, PA
July 16 & 17, 2019
<https://extension.psu.edu/agronomic-clinic>
- **Penn State’s Ag Progress Days**
Rock Springs, PA
August 13-15, 2019

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!



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

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Ron Hoover	Port Matilda, PA
Dale Stoltzfus	Schuylkill Haven, PA

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Justin Brackenrich	Penn State Extension
Sarah Dohle	Delaware Valley University

Industry

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David Fink	Heidel Hollow Farm
Kurt Rovenolt	Rovendale Ag & Barn, Inc.

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