Managing the Grazing Dairy

67th Annual Virginia State Feed Association Conference & Nutritional Management “Cow” College

Roanoke, VA

Thursday February 21st, 2013

www.stbrigidsfarm.com
About Our Farm...

- 55 Acres of Pasture
- 75 Registered Jersey Milking Cows
- 75 Jersey Heifers
- 45 Jersey Steers & Veal Calves
- Rotational Grazing
- Seasonal Breeding
Grass

- Costs of production ($/cwt ECM) for different systems in over 40 countries
  - Tie Stall Barns: $28/cwt
  - Free Stall Barns: $21/cwt
  - Dry Lots: $17/cwt
  - Grazing: $12/cwt

International Farm Comparison Network (IFCN) 2008-2010

Finding the proper balance...

- Stocking density
- Occupation period
- Rest period
“Managed Intensive Grazing is not simply turning cows out to pasture but rather; helping grass grow and guiding the cow to harvest it properly.”

André Voisin 1903-1964

Waste No Grass!

Grazing Nutrition & High Milk Production
Forage 8¢ per lb.
Grain 20¢ per lb.

Milk
Health
Reproduction

Grass 2¢ per lb.
Grain

Energy
Protein
Fiber

Milk
Health
Reproduction
Feeding the Grazing Herd

- Waste no grass - appropriate stocking density.
- Voisin principles
  - Stocking density
  - Occupation period
  - Rest period.
- Supplemental forage and grain is a good thing as long as you are not wasting grass.
- Time budget is critical.
- Sward density and volume are important.
- Grazing is no excuse for low milk production.

Typical Grazing Diet (Spring)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Lbs DM</th>
<th>Lbs ASIS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spring Grass</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corn Silage</td>
<td>9.5</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16% Grain</td>
<td>17.5</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL Pounds</td>
<td>50.0</td>
<td>155</td>
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Measure Your Results!

- Feed Cost per Cow
- Feed Cost per Cwt
- Cost of Production
- Income Over Feed Cost
- Profit per Cow
- Profit per Acre
Measure Your Results!
Profit per Acre

Achieve The Greatest Overall Return From an Acre
Maximize Grass Production
Maximize Grass Quality
High Production
High Margin
Achieve The Greatest Overall Return From an Acre

Measure Profit per Acre

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