

Northeast Pasture Consortium News Update July 2012

Linking Graziers, Researchers, Extension, and Technicians

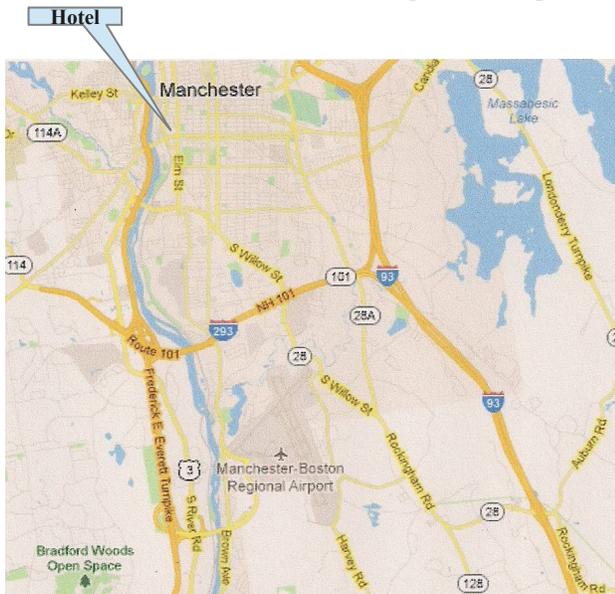
<http://www.grazingguide.net>

James Cropper, Executive Director & Editor



2013 Northeast Pasture Consortium Annual Conference & Meeting

The 2013 annual conference & meeting will be held at the Radisson Manchester Downtown Hotel, Manchester, NH on February 7 and 8. It proceeds the 7th Annual New Hampshire Grazing Conference being held on February 9 at the Radisson. The Radisson Manchester Downtown Hotel is located at 700 Elm Street just 6.5 miles from the Manchester-Boston Regional Airport.



Radisson Manchester Downtown Hotel Location - Located at 700 Elm Street. Note Airport is south of I-293.

Your Executive Committee and other members are putting together the program for 2013 annual meeting. The November newsletter will have the registration form and final agenda. The New Hampshire Grazing Conference details will be in the November News Update.

Driving Directions:

From Albany, NY:

Take the NYS Thruway, I-90 (becomes MA Turnpike, Eastbound to I-290. Head on I-290

East to I-495, then head on I-495 Northeast to Lowell, MA to US Route 3. Take Route 3 Northbound to the Frederick E. Everett Turnpike, take the turnpike North to Manchester (becomes I-293 near Manchester). Take the Granite Street Exit and go across the river and make a left onto Canal Street and then a right onto Pleasant Street. Go about 2 blocks, the Radisson is at 700 Elm Street just to the right of the intersection of Pleasant and Franklin, East of Franklin and West of Elm. Trip is 203 miles long and 3.75 hours.

From Newburgh, NY:

Take I-84, Eastbound to I-90 (MA Turnpike). Then follow directions beginning with the I-290 turn-off from I-90 given for Albany, NY. Trip is 230 miles long and 4.5 hours.

From Portsmouth, NH:

Take I-95, Southbound to NH 101 West (Exeter-Hampton Expressway). Continue on NH 101 West to I-93. Head Northbound on I-93 to the Bridge Street Exit (first interchange) to downtown Manchester. Go several blocks to Elm Street (US-3), turn left. Head Southbound on Elm to Central Street and turn right. Hotel will be on right. Trip is 44.5 miles and 1 hour.

From Manchester-Boston Regional Airport.

The Radisson Hotel offers free transportation to and from the airport. Trip is 6.5 miles one-way.



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The Radisson Manchester Downtown Hotel has hosted the NH Grazing Conference and the NH Farm & Forest Exposition in past years so this speaks well of the host.



One of their many meeting rooms.

Tentatively our 2013 sessions are:

1. Producer Showcase - Bedded Pack, the Complete Scoop
2. Grain Supplementation Economics & Strategies for Pastured Dairy Cows
3. Efficient Pasture Systems Design on Irregular Topography
4. Financial Returns Per Acre of Pasture versus Hayland
5. Economics of Confinement Dairy Farms versus Pasture Dairy Farms
6. Pasture Research Coordination & Facilitation

The Producer Showcase this year will feature farmers who are using bedded packs in their farm operations to bed-down livestock during the pasture off-season.

Dr. Andre Brito from the University of New Hampshire heads up the Grain Supplementation session. With the high cost of grain, a sharper pencil and a savvy grain shopper are needed to continue to feed grain to dairy cows so that the more of the protein in the grass is converted into milk instead of ending up in their urine as uric

acid while not breaking the budget.

With our challenging topography and existing farm layouts in the Northeast, we thought a session that explores how to best layout paddocks and lanes under challenging circumstances would be informative.

The session on Financial Returns Per Acre of Pasture versus Hayland is actually a workshop to gather farm information from farmers attending the 2013 conference to see how returns differ between pastureland and hayland in the Northeast.

The Economics of Confinement Dairy Farms versus Pasture Dairy Farms is an update of sessions done at past Northeast Pasture Consortium annual meetings. Pasture dairy farms, if well-managed, tended to be more profitable in the past. How are they doing today?

The Pasture Research Coordination and Facilitation session is a new addition that we want to become an annual event. It will strengthen one of our Consortium's objectives. Coordinate our pasture research work among our members and find areas of work that need more answers to make pasture-based farming more efficient, productive, and profitable.

NEW FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE VACCINE GETS LICENSED FOR USE ON CATTLE

First FMD Vaccine That Can Be Manufactured on the U.S. Mainland

PLUM ISLAND, NY—The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced on June 7 that the world's first molecular foot-and-mouth (FMD) vaccine has been granted conditional license for use in cattle by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health

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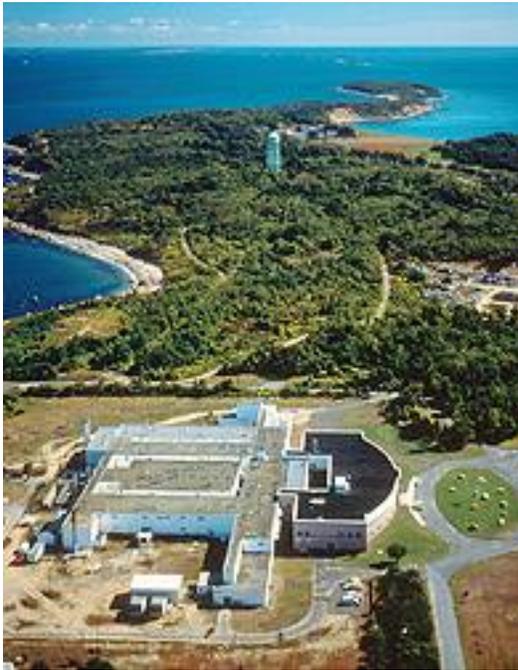
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Inspection Service's Center for Veterinary Biologics (CVB). Developed at DHS's Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) Plum Island Animal Disease Center (PIADC), this is the first licensed FMD vaccine that can be manufactured on the U.S. mainland.



Plum Island Animal Disease Center

“The important capability of this vaccine compared with other foot-and-mouth disease vaccines that have been developed in the past is that it can be manufactured on the mainland in the United States because it does not contain live FMD virus,” said PIADC Director Dr. Larry Barrett.

This molecular-based FMD vaccine was developed by scientists with the USDA Agricultural Research Service and DHS at PIADC and is the result of a seven-year collaboration with industry partners GenVec Inc., a biopharmaceutical company based in Gaithersburg, Md., and Antelope Valley Biologics, a Benchmark Biolabs affiliate based in Lincoln, Neb.

“This vaccine represents one of the most

significant developments in foot-and-mouth disease vaccines in the last 50 years,” said Dr. Luis Rodriguez, Research Leader, PIADC, Agricultural Research Service, USDA. “The new molecular vaccine provides important options to FMD control in the United States, including less dependence on foreign sources for vaccine manufacturing and a wider range of tests that can readily distinguish vaccinated animals from those that have been infected with the disease.”

Additionally, the vaccine does not require expensive, high-containment facilities because it does not use the infectious materials of the live FMD virus. DHS PIADC is working with the animal health vaccine manufacturer Merial to evaluate the production process.

The award-winning discovery research conducted by Dr. Marvin Grubman, USDA Agricultural Research Service at PIADC, led to this new vaccine that contains only virus coat particles, called empty viral capsids, which lack the infectious viral nucleic acids.

“The absence of specific viral components provides multiple opportunities to develop better diagnostic tests that differentiate between vaccinated and infected animals,” said Grubman. “Having this capability is critical to demonstrating freedom of infection and return to trade after a foot-and-mouth disease outbreak.”

Dr. John Neilan, with the DHS Targeted Advanced Development Branch at PIADC, developed a way to address the immune response to the vaccine, achieving the efficacy required for a USDA license.

With the licensing of this vaccine, it may be added to the PIADC North American Vaccine Bank. While this vaccine protects against one strain of FMD, there are seven major serotypes and many sub-types of FMD. Vaccines for other strains of FMD and other transboundary animal diseases of

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livestock are being developed at PIADC using this and other molecular technologies.

“Development of this vaccine technology took several years. Everyone at Plum Island Animal Disease Center is proud to see the result of the hard work that began with the initial discovery by Agricultural Research Service scientists followed later by the Department of Homeland Security scientists taking it through the licensing process,” said Barrett.

“Effective FMD vaccines can help alleviate the burden that these diseases pose to animal health and human well-being particularly in parts of the world facing food insecurity and population increases over the next decades,” Rodriguez added.

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About Plum Island Animal Disease Center

Plum Island Animal Disease Center is a U.S. Department of Homeland Security Science & Technology Directorate laboratory (since 2003) that is managed in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA Agricultural Research Service and USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service) to support inter-related programs in the protection of U.S. livestock from the accidental or intentional introduction of foreign animal disease that can seriously threaten livestock industries, food safety and our economy.

About Foot- and-Mouth Disease

Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) is a highly contagious disease of domestic and wild cloven-hoofed animals including cattle, swine, sheep, goats, deer and buffalo. The disease causes vesicular lesions on the tongue, feet and teats but causes low mortality except in young animals; however, infection has a severe adverse impact on animal production and productivity. FMD is

a reportable disease and countries in which the disease is present cannot trade susceptible animals or their products with FMD-free countries. Therefore, FMD has a significant economic impact on affected countries, especially those that have investment in export of agricultural products. FMD is composed of seven serotypes and multiple subtypes within each serotype. Humans do not get FMD, but they can act as mechanical carriers for the virus. FMD is considered a foreign animal disease to the U.S. because it does not occur in this country. The last outbreak in the U.S. was 1929. However, FMD is globally recognized as being a “transboundary” disease with regional and global impact because of its relationship to the development of international trade in animals and animal products and the movement of people.



Foot-and-Mouth Disease ruptured blister on upper lip of a cow

American Forage & Grassland Council (AFGC) Annual Conference

January 6-8, 2013

Marriott RiverCenter · Covington, Kentucky

The American Forage and Grassland Council Annual Conference for 2013 is fairly close to the Northeast Region. Covington, KY is across the Ohio River from Cincinnati, OH. Covington is 290 miles from Pittsburgh and 310 miles from Morgantown, WV. For pasture people, AFGC's

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Annual Conference offers plenty of new information on pasture management.



Join the AFGC for the very best in education, exhibits, and networking. You will hear relevant presentations about forage production and utilization practices that will help you be more profitable. From the opening program to the closing session, you'll find activities and information designed to help you navigate today's forage and grassland environment. The Forage Spokesperson Competition, Forage Bowl, Emerging Scientist Competition, Photo Contest, and more await you in Covington, KY, January 6-8, 2013. For more information call 800-944-2342 or visit www.afgc.org!



Conference Highlights:

- Sessions addressing our most pressing issues
- The best products and services displayed on the exhibit floor
- Networking opportunities designed to keep you connected with your peers
- One day registration fees to accommodate schedules
- Contests, awards, research displays and much more.

Room rates are \$99.00 per night at the Cincinnati Marriott RiverCenter in Covington, KY.



Watershed Projects Possibly to Continue at Coshocton, OH

Due to the severe budget cut to the Agricultural Research Service this year, the North Appalachian Experimental Watershed has to cease operations as an ARS research unit. The fate of the facility has been hanging in the balance. Below is a recent article from the local newspaper that offers a ray of hope that the facility will continue to operate as a watershed experiment station. OSU has beef cattle on pasture there.

From the May. 24, 2012 Coshocton Tribune

COSHOCTON, OH -- The federal government is slated to cease operations at the North Appalachian Experimental Watershed, but that doesn't necessarily end all research projects and the

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potential for new ones.

The Ohio State University Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (OARDC) in Wooster is in talks with Coshocton County Commissioners and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Agricultural Research Service for access to the land to finish current projects and explore future ones.

OARDC Associate Director David Benfield said it has four research projects and five employees working in the area. Commissioners own 421 acres of the 1,050 acres of land at the site off Ohio 621 in White Eyes Township.

Commissioners seem receptive to continue their relationship with OARDC as long as it doesn't interfere with other revenue opportunities being explored for the land. This includes timber harvesting, oil and gas drilling and hunting rights.

"We believe in research. We believe in having a facility there that can benefit other people," Commissioner Dane Shryock said. "If we have a choice that is in the best interest of this community and our taxpayers, we would prefer probably to lease to somebody who are going to be good stewards of the land as long as we can continue to do what we need to do in order to maximize our potential revenue."

Benfield said he didn't think tree cutting and hunting would interfere with any of their operations, but that would need to be looked at. Oil or gas well placement could be troublesome, but Benfield said it would be willing to work around it. He also said that such a well could provide an opportunity for drilling research studies.

OARDC Assistant to the Director Ken Scaife said he understands commissioners looking into money-making opportunities but that OARDC also can have an effect on the local economy, as it has in the past.

"For the long-term view, as long as we're there we'll have employees who live and work in this community and pay," he said. "We'll be bringing in state money to support the facility that supports the businesses and contractors in this area. It's something OARDC and OSU bring to the table, where if you're just leasing to a farmer, you might not get that economic presence."

Most of the studies done on the land have been related to soil and water relationship, soil erosion and the effects of pesticides and fertilizers on soils and surface water, Benfield said. Current projects are studies looking at the effects of intensive cattle grazing on land, timber harvesting on land and on watersheds of corn-growing and production.

No new projects will be started, Benfield said, until lease terms are reached. He said the initial lease probably would be for five years to finish projects with the possibility of extending the lease as projects are explored. If a lease agreement can't be reached, Benfield said projects would need to be halted and possibly moved to other research land.

OARDC has worked in conjunction with the USDA-ARS at the watershed for the past 40 years. USDA-ARS had leased the land at the site owned by the commissioners for use. Benfield said a pending proposal to the USDA-ARS could see the federally owned land at the site given to OSU as a land grant. The exact date USDA-ARS will pull out of the area is expected to be announced soon, Scaife said.

Benfield said OSU lawyers were drawing up a potential lease deal based on the previous agreement commissioners had with USDA-ARS. He said that would be a starting point for negotiations because details and cost of the lease have not been actively discussed at this time. The date of a future meeting between parties has not been scheduled.