FNE 93-21

Adding Puna Chicory to Permanent Hay/Pasture in Upstate New York

A Second Year Update

- Karl North
Northland Sheep Dairy

Significantly more chicory appeared the second year, so that much more of the original seeding area was judged to have produced a satisfactory germination, as shown in the following comparative table:

Seed Rate		4 lb./A	4 lb./A	2 lb./A	2 lb./A
Management		Trampled	None	Trampled	None
Results	1993	Good	Fair to Good		Fair to Poor
	1994	Excellent	Good	Good	Fair

Much of the young chicory grew slowly in our low fertility hill soil the first year, and the small plants were hard to distinguish from dandelion; this could account for the lower germination count the first year.

Grazing results in 1994 reconfirmed the high palatability of Puna Chicory. It was among the forage species most preferred by our sheep, along with trefoil, plantain, and dandelion, but offered more forage per plant than any of these.

Reports that chicory requires careful grazing management to keep it from flowering and becoming stemmy were not confirmed in this trial so far, suggesting that the problem may be limited to more southern latitudes, or to more fertile soils. This seeding remained vegetative under slow as well as rapid rotations. A few plants went to seed in a spot heavily manured by the flock bedding down there repeatedly. The chicory and all other forage in that spot grew unusually fast, and headed out because the flock tended to avoid grazing there until late in the season.

Intensive rotations (1-3 days grazing, 15-30 days rest) throughout the season appeared not to hurt the chicory in its first year: some of the best stands in the second year were in pastures heavily grazed the first year.

A final judgement as to whether Puna Chicory can join the ranks of true perennial forages in this northern climate will require much longer observation under a variety of grazing management. Stay tuned for further updates.