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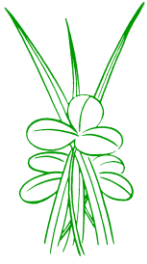
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FORAGE NEWS

For more forage information, visit our UK Forage Extension Website at: <http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage/>

December 2015

S. Ray Smith, Extension Forage Specialist and Krista Lea, MS

New Seed Coating for Alfalfa

Alfalfa is a \$10 billion-a-year crop in the U.S., but producing it can be a challenge. Farmers often plant it early in the spring when the soil is cold and damp. That makes the seeds vulnerable to a number of soil borne diseases.

To minimize the damage, most alfalfa seeds are coated with a fungicidal treatment. But these treatments are ineffective against the pathogen causing *Aphanomyces* root rot.

Deborah Samac with the United States Dept. of Agriculture – Agricultural Research Service (USDA-ARS) wanted to see if coating alfalfa seeds with a naturally occurring mineral would protect them from soil diseases, including *Aphanomyces* root rot. The mineral, zeolite, comes from degraded volcanic rock, has antifungal activity and qualifies as an organic soil treatment.

Results showed that the mineral coating was as effective as mefenoxam in protecting seeds from most soil pathogens, but unlike mefenoxam, zeolite protected the seeds from *Aphanomyces* root rot. It also did not inhibit production of healthy roots or beneficial microbes in the soil. The seed coating needs to be evaluated further, but the findings show that it could prove useful in both conventional and organic alfalfa operations~ AgResearch, USDA-ARS

NEW TO FORAGE NEWS

Featured Publication: Managing Diseases of Alfalfa (PPFS-AG-F-09)

Alfalfa can be a vigorous and productive forage crop for Kentucky farmers. Like all farm crops, however, alfalfa is subject to infectious diseases that can limit production. Alfalfa diseases can cause reduced forage yield, reduced forage quality, and decreased stand persistence. Managing these diseases is an important part of economical alfalfa production.



This fact sheet covers the symptoms and management of alfalfa diseases common to Kentucky, including seedling diseases, leaf spot/blights, root rots, wilts, and crown rots. A listing of several additional

University of Kentucky publications, which should prove useful for alfalfa producers, is also included. ~ Kentucky Pest News (to subscribe to KY Pest News, visit www.kentuckypestnews.wordpress.com)

Successful International Grassland Congress

Kentucky was well represented at the XXIII International Grassland Congress in New Delhi, India (Nov. 20-24). Of the 19 participants from the U.S., 3 of the main keynote speakers were from Kentucky. These included Dr. Ray Smith and Dr. Garry Lacefield from the University of Kentucky and Dr. Glen Aiken from the USDA-ARS Forage and Animal Production Research Unit in Lexington. In addition, a recent graduate student from UK, Jesse Morrison, also gave a presentation. If you would like to review the papers presented at the conference they will be available online within about 2 weeks at: www.internationalgrasslands.org. In case you have the travel bug and like to plan ahead, the next International Grassland Congress will be held in Nairobi, Kenya in 2019.

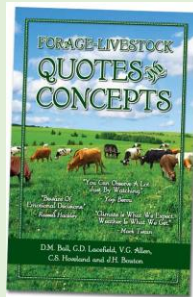
Tall Fescue in the 21st Century is the Focus for the 2016 Virginia Winter Forage Conferences

Tall Fescue in the 21st Century is the theme for the Virginia Forage and Grassland Council (VFGC) and Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) winter forage conferences. This year's conference highlights current knowledge and practice that producers can apply to manage of their tall fescue based grazing systems. This year's speakers are nationally recognized experts in tall fescue production and management.

Forage News Quote of the Month

"An Ounce of Prevention is Worth a Pound of Cure" ~ Benjamin Franklin

In medicine, it is better to prevent a disease than to cure it, and a similar concept applies when establishing forage stands. Weeds not properly controlled before planting are much more difficult to manage after the desired plants are in place. It is much better to correct soil pH and fertility prior to planting while there is an opportunity to incorporate lime and fertilizer into the soil. If a plant disease is preventable by selecting a disease-resistant variety, it is better to plant that variety than to deal with the disease later. This chance only occurs once in the establishment of perennial forage stands. To purchase the Forage-Livestock Quotes and Concepts book, contact KFGC at ukforageextension@uky.edu. Books are \$5 each.



The morning program will focus on understanding issues and problems with tall fescue and the afternoon program will explore potential solutions to these problems.

The daylong conference (8:30 am to 3:30 pm) will be repeated at four locations: Southern Piedmont AREC, Blackstone (1/26); Wytheville Meeting Center, Wytheville (1/27); Weyers Cave Community Center, Weyers Cave (1/28); and Brandy Station Fire Department, Brandy Station (1/29).

To register for this conference, please visit <http://vaforages.org/event/2016-vfgc-winter-conferences/>. The early registration fee is \$35 and must be submitted online or postmarked by Jan. 4, 2016. After January 4, 2016, the registration fee increases to \$50 per person. A youth registration rate is available; please contact the VFGC for details. ~ Gordon Groover

Heart of America Registration Open

The Heart of America Grazing Conference will be held in Lexington, KY on Jan. 25-26th at eh Downtown Hilton. The one and a half day program will include Alfalfa and State Hay Awards, Banquet, Gratitude presentation from Dr. Garry Lacefield, and three educational sessions: *Curing Fescue Toxicity?*, *Alfalfa Mini-Symposia* and *Extending the Grazing Season*. Talks will include:

- The Secret Ingredients of Clover – Dr. Michael Flythe
- Soyhulls: More than Just a Feed Supplement – Dr. Glen Aiken
- “Lacefield Max QII” Novel Tall Fescue – Dr. Tim Phillips
- Grazing Alfalfa: Producer Perspective – Bob Hall
- Low Lignin Alfalfa – Dr. Ray Smith
- Alfalfa as a Green Manure – Dr. Ben Goff
- How Diversity Extends the Grazing Season – Debby Dulworth
- Native Warm Season Grasses – Dr. Pat Keyser
- Grazing Corn to Maximize Late Summer and Fall Gains – Dr. Jeff Lehmkuhler
- The Economics of Extended Grazing – Dr. Greg Halich

Registration is available online at www.uky.edu/ag/forages or complete the form on the right. Discounted room rates are available through Dec. 26th.

UK Ag Equine Programs to Host Equine Showcase, Breeder’s Short Course

University of Kentucky Ag Equine Programs will host the 5th Annual UK Equine Showcase and the 2016 Kentucky Breeders’ Short Course Jan. 29-30, both at the Fayette County Extension office, 1140



Red Mile Place, in Lexington. The UK Equine Showcase will highlight the university’s current equine programs and relevant industry findings, focusing specifically on the equine

athlete. It will run from 12:30 to 5 p.m. Jan. 29. The Kentucky Breeders’ Short Course is an in-depth program on equine reproduction and horse management issues. It will run from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Jan. 30, with lunch provided.

To register for the event, visit <http://2016ukshowcaseshortcourse.eventbrite.com>. Early bird registration rates last until Jan. 4. Registration will close Jan. 16. For more details about this event and other information about UK Ag Equine Programs, visit <http://www.ca.uky.edu/equine>. ~ Holly Wiemers

Heart of America Grazing Conference Registration

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Registration

	Before Jan. 13	After Jan. 13
One Day:	\$50	\$60
Full:	\$85	\$95
Student:	\$40	\$50
Amount Enclosed: \$	_____	

Return this form with check payable to:
Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council

Send to: Krista Lea, University of Kentucky
N-222C Ag. Science Center North
Lexington, KY 40546
859-257-0597
ukforageextension@uky.edu

Online registration available at www.uky.edu/ag/forages
Discounted room rates are available through Dec. 26th and can be reserved at www.hilton.com using group code GRAZ16 or visit www.uky.edu/ag/forages for a directly link.

Upcoming Events (full details at UK Forage Website – www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage)

DEC 3 Farm Bureau Forage Meeting, Louisville, KY
DEC 13-16 National Grazing Lands Coalition Conf. (GLCI). Grapevine, TX.

2016

JAN 10-12 American Forage and Grassland Council Annual Meeting, Baton Rouge, LA.

JAN 16 Forages at KCA, Owensboro, KY

JAN 25-26 Heart of America Grazing Conf. Lexington, KY

Jan 26-29 Winter Forage Conferences, VA

JAN 29-30 UK Equine Showcase and Kentucky Breeders’ Short Course, Lexington, KY

FEB 6 Kentucky Small Ruminant Grazing Conf. Catlettsburg, KY

FEB 11 Pastures Please Equine Conf., Versailles, KY

May 17-18 KY Grazing School, Versailles, KY