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FORAGE NEWS

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

August 2015

S. Ray Smith, Extension Forage Specialist and Susan Leopold, secretary

Diseases of Orchardgrass – Use good management

In recent weeks with all the rain and temperatures, there have been several reports of leaf disease symptoms showing up in orchardgrass fields. The samples that have been brought to the UK Plant Diagnostic lab so far indicate a disease called brown stripe. There are a couple of other disease possibilities, but unfortunately there is no quick fix for this problem. The best management for these foliar diseases is optimum soil fertility, moderate cutting height (3-4”), removing the infected tissue (cutting for hay), and hope for less conducive weather conditions during orchardgrass regrowth.

Fig. 1 - Brown stripe on orchardgrass (E. Stromberg, VT).



For more information:

UK Forage Website under Publications and Diseases.

Summary of 2015 Stockpiling Fescue Demonstrations

The Master Grazer program conducted several tall fescue stockpiling research trials across the state last year. The participants clipped their pastures in August and applied 100 lbs of urea (46 lbs of actual N) after clipping, leaving an area in each pasture unfertilized to compare the yield difference. After successfully completing each demonstration and taking samples from all locations, the difference in yield was calculated. The section of the fields that were fertilized with urea had an average yield of 3650 lbs DM/ acre. The section of the fields that had no fertilizer averaged 2101 lbs DM/acre, for a difference of 1549 lbs/acre by applying nitrogen.

The quality of the tall fescue had a Relative Feed Value of 99.9%, a TDN score of 58%, and a crude protein score of 13.1%. The requirements for a mature cow giving average milk is 57% TDN and 9.5% crude protein. The stockpiled fescue is able to provide a cow with enough nutrients that supplementation is kept at a minimum. Providing a quality product, while keeping cost low can help increase profits.

Results from Master Grazer-Grazing for Cash 2014-2015 Stockpile Demonstrations (46 lbs/acre urea)

Location	Forage Yield (lbs dry matter/acre)			Increased* cow-grazing days per acre
	With Nitrogen	Without Nitrogen	Difference	
Madison	3335	1990	1345	31
Meade	2324	426	1898	44
Oldham	4293	2800	1493	35
Pulaski	3525	2914	611	14
Warren	3497	2701	796	19
Average across locations	3395 lbs	2166 lbs	1229 lbs DM/Acre	29 more cow-grazing days per acre
Cow- grazing days/acre	79 cow grazing days	50 cow grazing days		

*Assumes a 1000 lb grazing animal consuming 3% of her body weight with a forage utilization with strip grazing of 70%.

Thanks to county agents, producers, and Master Grazer coordinator, Cody Smith and to KBN and KY Ag. Development Fund for providing funding. Agents: Traci Missun, Richard Whitis, Brandon Sears, Joanna Coles, and Andy Mills. Producers: M.L. Stetton, Don Minton, John Thomas, Troy Ellis, and John Flaherty.

For more information: See “Stockpiling for Fall/Winter Pasture” and “Profitability of Stockpiling” at Forage Website under Publications and Grazing.

Advanced Grazing School August 17th in Lexington, KY

The University of Kentucky Master Grazer Program is planning an Advanced Grazing School to be held on August 17th at the UK Spindletop Research Farm (3251 Iron Works Pike) in Lexington. For more information and for registration form, visit UK Forage Website: www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage. Registration deadline is August 11. Cost is \$20.

Advanced Grazing School Schedule:

- Calibrating and Using No-till Seeders, *Dr. David Ditsch*
- Establishing New Pasture and Hay Stands using the best techniques, *Dr. Ray Smith*
- Setting Up and Calibrating an ATV Spray Rig
- Tour Warm Season Annual Grass Variety: Sorghum, Sorghum-Sudangrass, Sudangrass, Pearl millet, Teff, *Mr. Gene Olson*
- Testing and Managing to Avoid Nitrate and Prussic Acid Toxicity, *Dr. Donna Amaral-Phillips*

- Grazing Tolerant Forage Variety Trails – Novel Endophyte Tall Fescue, Clovers, Orchardgrass and other species, *Dr. Ray Smith*
- Can I Afford to Plant Summer Annuals on My Farm? *Dr. Greg Halich/Dr. Jeff Lehmkuhler*
- Yield, Quality and Regrowth of Warm Season Annuals, *Dr. Dennis Hancock*
- How to Choose the Best Variety for Your Farm (Balancing Quality and Yield), *Dr. Ray Smith*
- Putting the Pieces Together into an Integrated System for Your Farm, *Dr. Jeff Lehmkuhler*

Increasing Cool Season Pasture Production in the Spring Utilizing Plant Growth Hormones

Replicated trials on the University of Illinois Dudley-Smith Farm over the past 5 years we have looked at the application of RyzUp SmartGrass (RUSG) on cool season grasses in the early spring to increase production and to help extend the spring grazing cycle. RyzUp SmartGrass contains gibberellic acid, a naturally occurring plant growth regulator that promotes growth, and improves forage yields while maintaining quality yields when cool temperature's may limit natural plant growth.

Table 1. Results from Univ. IL Dudley-Smith Farm RyzUp SmartGrass plots: (20 gal/water 1% crop oil surfactant)

	2011*	2012	2013	2014	2015
<u>Orchardgrass</u>					
1.0 oz RyzUp	1,244	3,251	1,735	2,785	2,447
0.5 oz RyzUp	955	2,607	1,254	1,923	1,420
Check	980	1,628	1,022	1,468	926
<u>Endophyte</u>					
<u>Free Fescue</u>					
1.0 oz RyzUp	1,266	2,835	1,397	2,771	2,273
0.5 oz RyzUp	938	2,459	1,344	1,713	1,804
Check	766	1,650	1,118	1,238	903
<u>MaxQ Fescue</u>					
1.0 oz RyzUp	1,081	2,853	1,504	2,152	2,585
0.5 oz RyzUp	774	2,792	1,313	1,888	1,652
Check	763	2,123	1,043	1,313	967

(*) surfactant was omitted in 2011 trial but included as recommended on the product label in all subsequent treatments (2012-2015).

Over the past 5-years, RyzUp SmartGrass was applied in the spring when soil temperatures reached 45 degree Fahrenheit (F) at the 4 inch level and when air temperatures ranged between 45 and 60 F. Treatments of RUSG were applied from the dates of March 28 to April 21 in years 2011 thru 2015, with the majority of treatments being made between March 28 and April 6. Scouting, targeting and treating pastures with cool season grasses at this time showed that cool season grasses typically had 2 to 3 leaves of new growth. Yield data (Table 1) was collected approximately 15 days after RUSG application. Table 1 also illustrates the variability and range of the growth rates of cool season grass pastures for each year.

As a result of RUSG treatments, the increase in pasture growth allows us the options to start grazing earlier (10 to 15 days earlier) and/or to increase stocking density. In making the decision to use a product like RyzUp SmartGrass, producers will want to compare the cost of RUSG to the cost of dry matter feed from other feed sources. The Dudley Smith

Farm RUSG trials demonstrated that the 1.0 oz. treatment delivered an average yield increase for all grasses of 1,091 pounds while the 0.5 oz. treatment delivered an average increase of 524 pounds in dry matter production in a 15 day growth period compared to the “check” average over the 5 year trial. Comparing the cost of dry matter of legume-cool season grass hay - priced at \$150.00 per ton, the cost per pound of dry matter would be approx. 9 cents; whereas the cost of increase production of cool season grasses with RyzUp Smart Grass was 2½ cents per pound of dry matter. The application and use of RyzUp SmartGrass did not show an effect on feed quality over the 5-year trail.

(SOURCE: *Ed Ballard, Univ. of IL Ext. Animal Systems Educator, Retired; Gary Letterly, Ext. Educator, Univ. of IL.*)

AFGC and UK hold first Warm Season Grass Workshop

After years of success offering a cool season grass workshop, AFGC has partnered with the University of Kentucky to offer the first ever Warm Season Grass Professional Workshop on August 18th in Lexington, KY. This workshop was created with agronomists, seed dealers and advanced producers in mind and is scheduled to be a full day of lectures, activities and field demonstrations. For more information or to register, visit www.afgc.org and click on events.

Agenda: AFGC Warm Season Grass professional Workshop:

- Genetics of the BMR Trait within the Sorghum genus *Ray Smith, University of Kentucky*
- Seed Quality and Seed Industry priorities for warm season annual grasses *Chad Hale, Byron Seeds*
- Determining the best variety (quality and yield) of Warm Season Annuals *Chris Teutsch, Virginia Tech*
- Beef Cattle performance with warm season annuals *Jeff Lehmkuhler, Univ. of Kentucky*
- Dairy Cattle performance with warm season annuals *Chad Hale, Byron Seeds*
- Maximizing yield, quality and regrowth of warm season annuals *Dennis Hancock, Univ. of Georgia*
- Simple on-farm tests for nitrate and cyanide toxicity *Ray Smith, Univ. of Kentucky*
- Minor use summer annual grasses: Teff, Crabgrass, German millet, and others *Panel Discussion, All speakers, led by Dennis Hancock, Univ. of Georgia*
- How I've integrated Corn grazing into my forage system *Kentucky Beef Producer*
- Bermudagrass production and emerging issues (ie -stem maggot) *Dennis Hancock, Univ. of Georgia*
- What is the role of warm season native grasses on beef cattle farms? *Tom Keene, Univ. of Kentucky*
- Field tour Warm Season annual grass variety tests and Demonstrations *Gene Olson, Univ. of Kentucky*

Upcoming Events (details at Forage Website)

AUGUST 17 Advanced Grazing School, Lexington, KY
 AUGUST 18 Warm Season Grass Workshop, Lexington, KY
 SEPT 9-10 Heart of America Grazing Conf. Wilmington OH.
 SEPT 17 KFGC Field Day in Christian County.
 SEPT 19 One Day Grazing School –Russell/Clinton County
 NOV 20-24 Inter. Grassland Congress. New Delhi, India.
 DEC 13-16 National Grazing Lands Coalition Conference (GLCI). Grapevine, TX.

2015

JAN 10-12 AFGC Annual Meeting. Baton Rouge, LA.