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Forage News

Plant and Soil Sciences

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10-1-2014

## Forage News [2014-10]

Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, University of Kentucky

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### Repository Citation

Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, University of Kentucky, "Forage News [2014-10]" (2014). *Forage News*. 41.

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# FORAGE NEWS

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

## October 2014

*Garry D. Lacefield and S. Ray Smith, Extension Forage Specialists • Christi Forsythe, Secretary*

### KEYNOTE SPEAKERS HIGHLIGHTS KENTUCKY GRAZING CONFERENCE

Make your plans to be with us October 23 at the WKU Expo in Bowling Green. The Grazing Conference will feature leading speakers covering cutting-edge topics including: Grazing Methods, Maximizing Stockers Gains on Pastures, Role and Importance of Forage Legumes, Technical Service Providers and Summer Grazing Options. We are very fortunate to have TWO outstanding keynote speakers. Back by popular demand is Mr. Ed Ballard, University of Illinois (retired) speaking on Grazing Options for Fall & Winter. Our second keynote speaker is Dr. Scott Flynn, with Dow AgroSciences speaking on the topic "Can I Afford to Spray for Weeds in Pastures?" We will present our annual KFGC Awards during lunch. At 1:45, we will conduct our Forage Spokesman Contest. We will have a full house of exhibitors and a large silent auction. For more details concerning the program, see our website at [www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage](http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage) or contact your County Agent or contact us.

### DR. TEMPLE GRANDIN TO SPEAK AT ANNUAL AFGC CONFERENCE

The American Forage & Grassland Conference will be held January 11-14, 2015 in St. Louis, MO. The keynote speaker, Dr. Temple Grandin, will open the conference discussing "Tips for Low Stress Cattle Handling". The conference will feature many sessions with excellent, practical presentations on forages. For more information phone 800-944-2342, e-mail [info@afgc.org](mailto:info@afgc.org) or visit the website at [www.afgc.org](http://www.afgc.org).

### KENTUCKY CATTLEMEN TO MEET IN OWENSBORO

Mark your calendar and plan to attend the Kentucky Cattlemen's Association Annual Conference in Owensboro January 16-17, 2015 in the brand new Convention Center. KCA leadership has a very intensive two-day program. Our 20<sup>th</sup> consecutive Forages at KCA will be held Saturday, January 17 from 2:00 to 4:30. This year I am featuring our Producers, each discussing a very important topic "My Top 5 Forage Improvements". Each will discuss from their farming experiences. Program and Topics include:

#### Forage Improvement Practices that WORK

2:00 pm Welcome, Introduction & Overview  
Garry Lacefield

#### My Top 5 Forage Improvements/Practices

2:15 Commercial Hay - Clayton Gerald  
2:30 Dairy - Bill Payne  
2:45 Goats and Sheep - Jason Tower  
3:00 Cow-Calf - Chris Pantle  
3:15 Stocker - Russell Hackley

3:30 Top TEN Forage Improvements: The BIG Picture - Garry Lacefield  
3:45 Panel Discussion  
4:30 Adjourn

No additional registration fee is required for all KCA attendees and a proceedings along with other educational materials will be provided free of charge.

### 35<sup>TH</sup> KENTUCKY ALFALFA CONFERENCE - FEBRUARY 26, 2015

Thirty-six years ago I started planning an alfalfa meeting to be held in Shelbyville, Kentucky. That meeting turned out to be the first Kentucky Alfalfa Conference. This makes the 35<sup>th</sup> consecutive year we have put together the conference scheduled for the Cave City Convention Center February 26, 2015. As I look over the program, we have planned I believe I saved the best for last. More details later but for now, mark February 26 on your calendar and visit our website [www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage](http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage) for a list of speakers and topics. See you there.

### BEWARE OF PRUSSIC ACID POISONING AS FROST APPROACHES

Although prussic acid poisoning can occur anytime during the growing season, the greatest risk is usually associated with the first frost in Kentucky.

The primary cause of hydrocyanic (prussic) acid poisoning in domestic animals is the ingestion of plants containing this potent toxin. Cyanide-producing compounds (cyanogenic glucosides) occurring in living plant cells are converted to prussic acid when cells are crushed or otherwise ruptured.

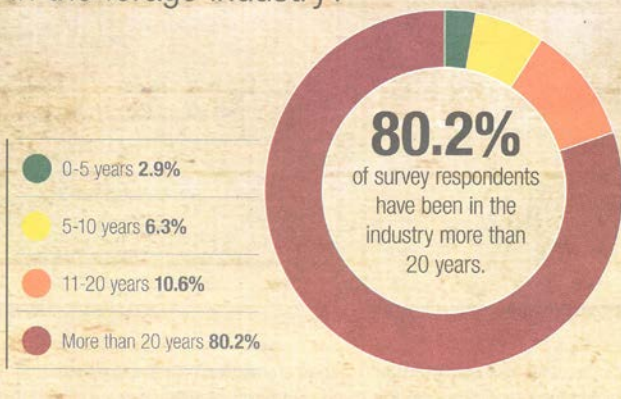
The prussic acid potential of plants is affected by species and variety, weather, soil fertility and stage of plant growth. Plants of the sorghum group and leaves of wild cherry trees have a potential for producing toxic levels of prussic acid. There are wide differences among varieties. Some of the sudangrasses are low in prussic acid. Pearl millet is apparently free of prussic acid in toxic amounts.

The risk from potentially dangerous forages may be reduced by following certain management practices.

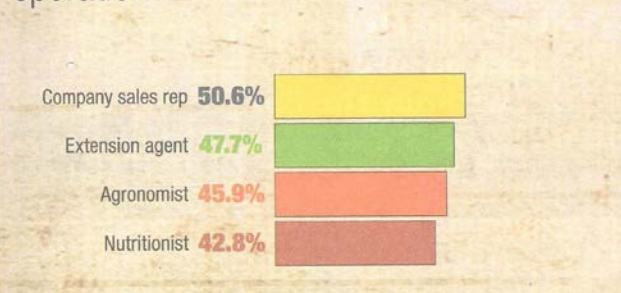
1. Graze sorghum or sorghum cross plants only when they are at least 15 inches tall.
2. Do not graze plants during and shortly after drought periods when growth is severely reduced.
3. Do not graze wilted plants or plants with young tillers.
4. **Do not graze for two weeks after a non-killing frost.**
5. **Do not graze after a killing frost until plant material is dry (the toxin is usually dissipated within 48 hours).**
6. **Do not graze at night when frost is likely.**
7. Delay feeding silage 6 to 8 weeks following ensiling.
8. Do not allow access to wild cherry leaves whether they are wilted or not. After storms always check pastures for fallen limbs.

For more information on Prussic Acid Poisoning, along with other Forage-Related Disorders, stop by your County Extension Office and get a copy of ASC-57.

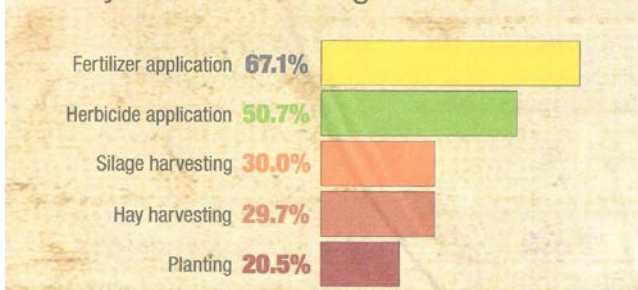
How long have you been involved in the forage industry?



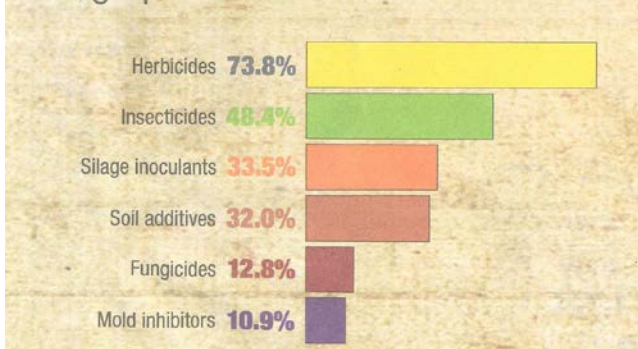
What professionals do you use on your operation?



Do you contract with custom operators for any of the following?



What types of additives do you use in forage production?

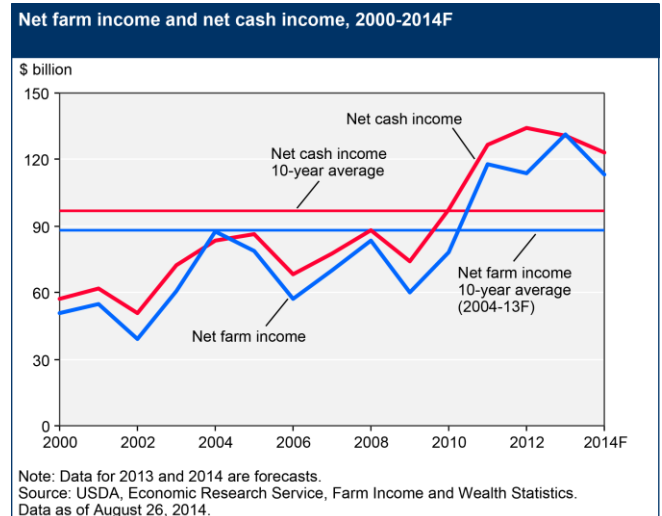


(SOURCE: Progressive Forage Grower – Surveys, Sept. 1, 2014, Vol. 15, Issue 8)

### FARM INCOME IS FORECAST TO DECLINE IN 2014

“Net farm income is forecast at \$113.2 billion in 2014, down about 14 percent from the 2013 forecast of \$131.3 billion. If realized, the 2014 forecast would be the fourth-highest value since 1970 after adjusting for inflation. Lower cash receipts for crops, and to a lesser degree, higher production expenses and reduced government farm payments, drive the expected drop in net farm income. Net cash income is forecast at \$123 billion, down almost 6 percent from the 2013 forecast. Net cash income is projected to decline less than net farm income primarily because it reflects the sale of more than \$10 billion in carryover stocks from 2013. Despite expected record-setting harvests, crop receipts are expected to decrease more than 7 percent in 2014 due to lower prices. Livestock receipts are forecast to increase by more than 15 percent in 2014, largely due to higher prices. This chart is found in the topic page on the 2014 Farm Sector Income Forecast on the ERS website, updated August 26, 2014.”

USDA Economic Research Services. (2014). “Farm income is forecast to decline in 2014, but remain above previous 10-year averages.” <http://ers.usda.gov/data-products/chart-gallery/detail.aspx?chartId=48758>. 26 August 2014. Web. 27 August 2014.



### ANNUAL FORAGE CALCULATOR

Jeff Lehmkuhler and Greg Halich have just updated the Annual Forage Calculator. It's a very user friendly spreadsheet to help determine the costs of seeding annual forages. Download this updated version from the Decision Aid section of the UK Forage Website.

### KENTUCKY REPRESENTED AT NATIONAL HAY CONVENTION

The 119<sup>th</sup> Convention of the National Hay Association was held in Memphis, September 17-21, 2014. Hart County hay producer Clayton Gerald was one of the keynote speakers and is currently serving on the board. Others from Kentucky who participated included: Molly Gerald, Tom & Johnny Creech, Tom & Muggs Keene, Garry & Cheryl Lacefield. The next NHA meeting will be September 23-26, 2015 in Lancaster, PA.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- OCT 23 15<sup>th</sup> Kentucky Grazing Conference, Western Kentucky University Expo Center, Bowling Green
- NOV 18-20 Alfalfa Intensive Training Seminar, Bloomington, MN 2015
- JAN 11-13 American Forage & Grassland Council Conference, St. Louis, MO
- JAN 16-17 20<sup>th</sup> Forages at KCA, KCA Convention, Owensboro
- FEB 26 35<sup>th</sup> “Anniversary” Kentucky Alfalfa Conference, Cave City Convention Center, Cave City, KY

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Extension Forage Specialist  
October 2014