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FORAGE NEWS

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

July 2014

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

FORAGE LEGEND CELEBRATES 96TH BIRTHDAY

Mr. Warren Thompson, retired Forage Specialist at the University of Kentucky, Mr. Forages, Mr. Alfalfa, National Forage Specialist, mentor – encourager and special friend celebrated his 96th Birthday on May 31, 2014. Congratulations Warren!



Photo by Dr. Jimmy Henning

FORAGE FIELD DAY

The Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council Annual Field Day will be held on July 17 in Breckinridge County from 3:00 – 8:30 p.m. For complete details on tours, times, speakers and activities, see our website at www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage or contact Carol Hinton, Field Day Chairman and Breckinridge County Agricultural & Natural Resources Agent at their office (270) 756-2182.

LATE SUMMER SEEDINGS

Many of you are preparing to seed or reseed various forage grasses and legumes. Successful establishment of a new pasture or hay field does not come about by accident but by attention to details. One of the important details is what variety or varieties will you use. We have a lot of valuable Kentucky tested results available on grasses and legumes important to Kentucky. For our complete list of species and varieties, see your County Extension Agent or go to our website at <http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage/ForageVarietyTrials2.htm>

FORAGE EXTENSION FUNDING: CHANGES & CHALLENGES

I read with great interest Dr. Dennis Hancock's article in the Progressive Forage Growers June 1, Vol. 15, Issue 6. Dr. Hancock is a native Kentuckian and graduate of the University of Kentucky and is currently Extension Forage Specialist at the University of Georgia. I have excerpted the following from his article:

" On May 8, 1914, President Woodrow Wilson signed the Smith-Lever Act into law, establishing the Cooperative Extension Service. In the 100 years that have elapsed, extension agents and educators at the national, state and local level have been leaders in an epic agricultural revolution. In a 2010 study titled "Persistence Pays: U.S. Agricultural Productivity Growth and the Benefits of Public R & D Spending," economists concluded that there have been \$20 in benefits for every \$1 spent on agricultural research and extension. Do you know of any other (legal) endeavor that has a return on investment of 20 to 1?

Publicly funded research and extension efforts have been major contributors to improvements in nearly every aspect of forage and livestock production in the U.S. Our

systems now produce the safest, more nutritious and most cost-effective milk, meat and fiber ever known to mankind.

However, just because this fact is true does not mean it will stay true. What happens when a society becomes complacent? Ask the Britons, the Greeks, the Mayans, the Romans or the Ottomans. Outsized budget deficits, an increasingly global economy and an American public that has rapidly become disconnected from agriculture are factors that seem to have inducted complacency and negligence when it comes to fundamental ag research and extension efforts.

Public funding for agricultural research and extension efforts is nowhere near what is needed to replicate past successes. Total agricultural research and development spending in the U.S., including both public and private sources, has sustained only marginal annual increases. However, the funding priorities have drifted away from solving day-to-day management problems, particularly in the forage-based livestock sector. Education and extension efforts are even harder hit.

The proportion of public agricultural research and extension efforts is currently less than 28 percent. Federal funding for cooperative extension in the FY 2014 budget was slightly improved from FY 2013. Yet, if adjusted for inflation, federal funding of the Smith-Lever Act is currently 30 percent less than it was in FY 1995. This decline has been even more severe in some states where cuts in state and local funding have decimated or eliminated many extension programs.

These declines have hit the forage livestock industries hard. Between 1984 and 2009, there has been a 60 percent reduction in the number of forage or livestock researchers and a reduction of nearly 40 percent in the number of forage or livestock teachers in our universities. Just since 1998, there has been a more than 30 percent decline in forage extension specialists in the U.S., and projections indicate that there will be another 30 percent decline by 2018. In addition to the lack of federal and state funding for these efforts, the near absence of forage-specific grant opportunities has prevented the training of the next generation of scientists and educators.

Many countries and corporate industries in other regions of the world are ramping up their funding of forage and grassland research and extension. Consequently, they are dramatically closing the gap on our advantage."

TIME TO BEGIN STOCKPILING TALL FESCUE

Late July-early August is the time to begin stockpiling for fall and winter use. Remove cattle, apply necessary fertilizer, and allow the grass to accumulate growth until November or December. Make sure that summer growth has been removed to 3 to 4 inches by grazing or clipping so that stockpile production comes from new grass regrowth.

During the stockpiling period, August to November, other available forages such as sorghum-sudan hybrids, sudangrass, bermudagrass, grass-lespedeza, and grass-clover should be used. After frost, alfalfa-grass and clover-grass growth should be grazed first before moving to grass fields.

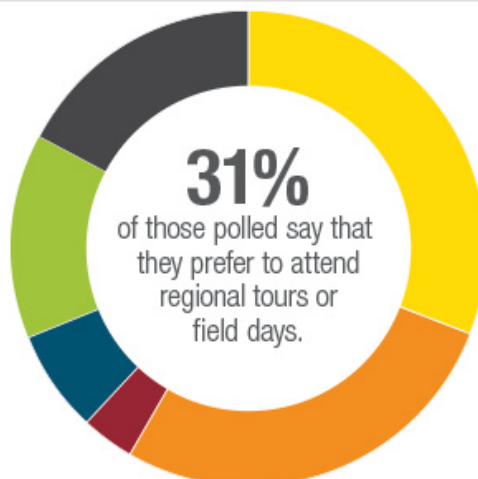
For more detailed information on stockpiling, see our website <http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage/ForagePublications.htm>

WHICH FORAGE EVENTS DO YOU PREFER TO ATTEND?

Voting results

Which forage events do you prefer to attend?

- Regional tours or field days. 31%
- Farm shows with equipment demonstrations. 27.6%
- Indoor trade shows (no equipment demonstrations) 3.4%
- National association meetings/seminars. 7%
- Regional association meetings/seminars. 13.8%
- Local forage seminars. 17.2%



(SOURCE: Progressive Forage Grower on-line Survey, May 27-2014)

alfalfa, is being tried by growers and university researchers regarding the benefits of using foliar fungicides in alfalfa grown for hay. Additionally, there is great interest and justified concern for the use of tank mixing a fungicide with an insecticide to determine if there is a positive synergistic yield response. Here are the results from one such study conducted in Wisconsin that examined the effect of Headline® fungicide on alfalfa forage production. The treatments were:

1. Untreated Check (UTC)
2. Headline®
3. Respect® (insecticide)
4. Headline® + Insecticide®
5. Quadris®
6. Warrior II®
7. Quadris® + Warrior II®

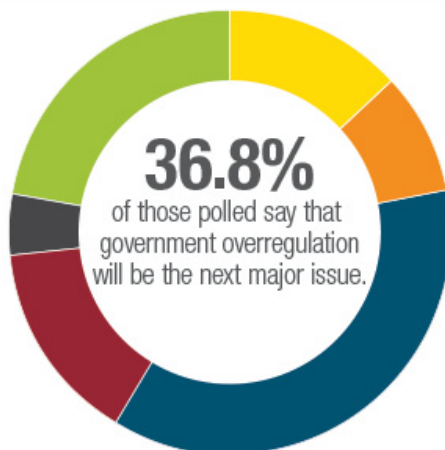
Results from two Wisconsin studies indicate that there were no consistent responses to foliar fungicides across second and third crop alfalfa. While there was evidence of reductions in disease severity and defoliation in some of the alfalfa cuttings, overall, there was no evidence of differences in terms of yield. Based on this trial, additional trial data are needed before recommendations can be made regarding foliar fungicide use in alfalfa. (SOURCE: Pennsylvania Forage and Grassland News, Volume 24, No. 3, Summer 2014)

WHAT'S THE NEXT MAJOR ISSUE FACING AGRICULTURE

Voting results

What do you see as the next major issue facing agriculture?

- Lack of research funding 13.2%
- GMO debate 8.8%
- Size and weight of farming equipment on roadways 0%
- Government overregulation 36.8%
- Weeds and pests becoming resistant to chemicals 14.7%
- Labor shortages 4.4%
- EPA's proposed rule on water quality 22.1%



(SOURCE: Progressive Forage Grower on-line Survey, May 27-2014)

DR. JONG DUK KIM - VISITING SCIENTIST FROM SOUTH KOREA

The forage program at UK has been honored to host Dr. Jong Duk Kim as a visiting scientist from South Korea for six months. Dr. Kim is a Professor at Cheonan Yonam Agricultural College. His college is one of the leading institutions in South Korea offering practical and advanced training for the Agriculture Industry and for individuals returning to the family farm. Dr. Kim is also the Director of the Yonam Agriculture Research and Extension Center. Not only does he manage the Center, but he coordinates variety testing of warm and cool season annual forages and is expanding the program to test perennial forage grasses like tall fescue when he returns in August. We have gained a lot from Dr. Kim's expertise with warm season grasses over the past four months. In Kentucky, he is learning about all aspects of our forage extension and research programs. For example, Dr. Kim is now an expert in how we conduct detailed pasture evaluations on farms in Central Kentucky. He is interested in offering a similar program in South Korea when he returns. Dr. Kim is also helping coordinate a project to determine the sugar content of cool season grass varieties to better facilitate pasture management of Kentucky horse, dairy, and beef cattle farms. When you see Dr. Kim at the KFGC Field Day July 17 or at other events this summer please give him a warm Kentucky greeting.

KENTUCKY TIED FOR 7TH IN TOTAL ACRES HARVESTED FOR HAY

All Hay Acres Harvested (2014 Estimates)	
	Acres (Million)
Texas	5,700
Missouri	4,150
Oklahoma	3,300
South Dakota	3,000
Montana	2,700
Kansas	2,650
Kentucky	2,600
North Dakota	2,600

Source: USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service, March 31, 2014

DO FOLIAR FUNGICIDES IMPROVE ALFALFA FORAGE PRODUCTION?

There has been an increased marketing effort for the use of foliar fungicides in field crops like corn and soybean. Many of these reports have also emphasized the use of these products for yield protection in the absence of disease, also known as a "plant health" response. Several trials from Midwestern land grant universities have shown inconsistent yield responses and a variable, but low probability of economic return. Several different factors including field history, variety/hybrid selection and weather have a larger influence on the risk of loss in those crops. Headline® fungicide, which is labeled for use on

UPCOMING EVENTS

- JULY 17 KFGC Field Day, Breckinridge County
- SEPT 22-27 Mountain Ag Week, UK Robinson Center, Jackson
- SEPT 25 Beef Bash, U.K. Research & Education Center, Princeton
- OCT 23 15th Kentucky Grazing Conference, Western Kentucky University Expo Center, Bowling Green

2015

- JAN 11-13 American Forage & Grassland Council Conference, St. Louis, MO
- JAN 16-17 20th Forages at KCA, KCA Convention, Owensboro
- FEB 26 35th "Anniversary" Kentucky Alfalfa Conference, Cave City Convention Center, Cave City, KY

Garry D. Laceyfield

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Extension Forage Specialist
July 2014