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FORAGE NEWS

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

June 2014

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

KFGC FIELD DAY

Breckinridge County will host the 2014 Kentucky Forage & Grassland Council Field Day on July 17. Carol Hinton, Calvin Bohannon and their committee are working on the details for the event. More details and program information will be available later. Mark your calendars and plan to attend the KFGC Field Day July 17 in Breckinridge County.

KFGC AWARD NOMINATIONS

The Awards Committee of the Kentucky Forage & Grassland Council are now accepting nominations for the 2014 Forage Awards. The Awards will be presented at the Kentucky Grazing Conference on October 23 at the WKU Expo Center in Bowling Green. Annual Awards are given in four categories: Public (County), Public (State), Industry and Producer. To nominate a deserving individual, send a one-page nomination to Garry Lacefield, KFGC Awards Chairman, UK Research & Education Center, P.O. Box 469, Princeton, KY 42445 or e-mail at glacefie@uky.edu. For a list of previous award winners see our website <http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage/ProceedingsPage.htm>.

BEEF BASH - HOLD THE DATE

The University of Kentucky and the Kentucky Cattlemen's Association will host Beef Bash 2014 on September 25 at the Research and Education Center in Princeton.

This is the fourth Beef Bash with the others being held in 2008, 2010, and 2012 and over 400 people attending each time. There will also be about 30 commercial exhibitors in attendance.

The program which is being planned will include the latest information on beef cattle and forages along with hands-on activities and exhibits. A noon program will include keynote speakers.

Please mark this date on your calendar and join us and other Kentucky cattlemen for a day out with the cows. (Roy Burris)

U.K. FORAGE WORKERS TOUR

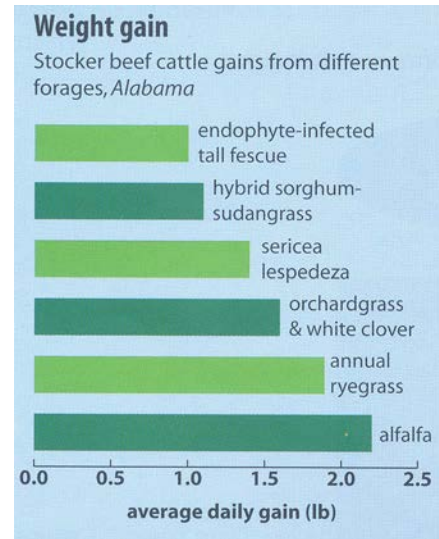
Each year for the past 35 years the U.K. forage workers have toured forage-livestock farms throughout Kentucky rotating from West to East. This year's tour began in Bowling Green May 14 with stops at the WKU farm and on to the U.K. Research & Education Center in Princeton. From there participants toured the grasses and legumes at the Elk & Bison Prairie in the Land Between the Lakes. The tour concluded on May 15 at Russell Hackley's farm in Grayson County. In spite of rain and cool temperatures, the group enjoyed seeing different operations with many forage species used for horses, cattle, elk and bison as well as research and demonstration plots at both WKU and UK. Photo highlights of the tour will be available on our website at www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage soon.

KENTUCKY GRAZING SCHOOL

The Kentucky Grazing School was held in Woodford County May 21-22. Forty-five students participated in the two-day school which offered both classroom and field activities including fence and water installation on grazing paddocks. The next Grazing School will be in the fall. Dates and location will be forthcoming.

IMPACT OF FORAGE SPECIES (QUALITY) ON STOCKER

AVERAGE DAILY GAINS.



(SOURCE: Auburn University, Alabama, www.aces.edu)

SOUTHERN FORAGES: AN INFORMATION TRANSFER

"SUCCESS STORY"

Knowledge of forage-livestock production concepts and a way to locate practical forage information are needed by producers of grazing animals. Discussions that began in 1985 concerning the need for a comprehensive, practically oriented forage reference book led the authors to write the book *Southern Forage*, which was eventually published in 1991 by the Potash and Phosphate Institute (now the International Plant Nutrition Institute). The book provides information about establishment, management, and utilization of forage species commonly grown in the Southeast as well as animal related aspects of forage-livestock production. A comprehensive appendix and a thorough index were added to facilitate location of information on specific topics. The response to the book was gratifying, leading to the publication of second, third, and fourth editions of the book in 1996, 2002, and 2007, respectively. Subsequently developed items based on the book have included a publication titled Forage Crop Pocket Guide (of which over 95,000 copies have been printed), posters on Forage Grasses and Forage Legumes that describe and contain color pictures of various species discussed in the *Southern Forages* book, and a summary of concepts from the book (Keys to Forage Profitability) published in a document form and also used in a DVD. Seminars based on principles in the book have been presented in numerous states within the USA and in several other countries. The popularity and wide use of this book and related materials suggest that the forage-livestock principles covered in *Southern Forages* have no geographic boundaries. It also provides evidence that meeting a major educational need may have more dramatic results than initially expected. (SOURCE: Garry Lacefield, Don Ball, Carl Hoveland and Christi Forsythe IN Proceedings 68th Southern Pastures and Forage Crop Improvement Conference, Biloxi, MS, April 2014)

NATIVE GRASS PERCEPTIONS: PRODUCER AND PROFESSIONALS SURVEYS IN TENNESSEE

Native warm-season grasses (NWSG) offer a potentially important forage option to the cattle industry, but in order to help focus research and extension efforts, knowledge and attitudes of producers and professional educators (Extension, NRCS) regarding these grasses need to be understood. During summer 2011, we conducted a mail survey of 1,620 beef cattle producers and in Feb 2014 we surveyed 312 professionals in Tennessee. Few producers intentionally grew NWSG (5%) and familiarity was low, 66.7% "not at all familiar"; for professionals this figure was 5%. In response to specific questions about key attributes of NWSG important for forage production, producers did not know/no opinion 67.3% - 79.1% of the time; those with an opinion tended to underestimate quality, yield, ability to produce gain, drought tolerance, stand persistence, and likelihood of spreading and overestimate fertilizer requirements. Professionals' knowledge regarding these same attributes was accurate but they tended to overestimate producer knowledge and underestimate producer perceptions regarding NWSG. Producers indicated that they were somewhat interested (30.4%), interested (30.7%), or very interested (22.2%) in improving summer forage quality; professionals tended to overestimate this interest. Willingness to spend (out-of-pocket costs) to establish "quality, perennial, summer forage that would persist over a ten-year period" met or exceeded actual costs for 37.4% of producers; professionals tended to overestimate this willingness to spend. Using willingness to "move cattle among your pastures 2 - 3 times per month" as a surrogate for willingness to incur greater management intensity to achieve specific outcomes, producers indicated (on a 5-point scale) that a three-fold increase in summer gains (3.90), a two-fold increase in summer gains (3.81), qualifying for a 50% cost-share (3.78), improved drought tolerance (3.44), and eliminating summer hay feeding (3.43) would motivate their adoption of NWSG. Professionals considered issues related to establishment to be the most important barrier to adoption of NWSG and that reduced fertilizer costs and improved gain and production were most likely to motivate adoption by producers. These results suggest that few producers currently use NWSG forages, most are not familiar with them, and their potential is somewhat underestimated among those who report being familiar with NWSG. They also suggest that based on interest in improving summer forage, willingness to spend to establish summer forages, and willingness to increase management intensity, there is a prospective role for NWSG on many Tennessee beef farms. Professionals have a sound foundation for improving producer knowledge regarding native forages. (SOURCE: P. Keyser, S. Schexnayder, A. Willcox, G. Bates, and J. Waller IN Proceedings 68th Southern Pastures and Forage Crop Improvement Conference, April 2014)

ECONOMICS OF NATIVE GRASS FORAGE PRODUCTION: HOW WE GOT LUCKY AND WHERE TO FROM HERE?

Understanding the economic implications of forage production is critical to evaluating forage options and formulating management recommendations for producers. During 2009 - 2013, a team of researchers at the University of Tennessee (UT) conducted several studies evaluating native grass forages by themselves and as a component of integrated forage-biomass systems. Using standard UT production budgets and the results of these studies, we conducted economic evaluations of the various forages tested. The first of these studies, an evaluation of two native forages with and without legumes and grazed by bred dairy heifers, demonstrated that i) legumes were not economically justified, ii) switchgrass (SG) was cheaper (\$0.38/AUD) than a big bluestem/indiangrass blend (BBIG; \$0.65/AUD), and that forages were much cheaper than commodity rations (\$1.89 - \$3.06/AUD) providing comparable performance. A second trial examining performance of beef steers on the same two grasses plus eastern gamagrass all grazed for 90 days during the summer indicated that in terms of lb beef produced/ac (503 lb/ac) and net return (\$431/ac), SG outperformed the other forages. A second component of that same study evaluated 30-day early season grazing followed by biomass production for the balance of the growing season. A break-even price of biomass was calculated that would justify cessation of grazing. Depending on location (i.e., management), biomass prices of \$37 and \$105/ton (SG), would justify biomass production over grazing. The third study examined the same integrated forage-biomass approach but in the context of hay production. This study demonstrated that i) earlier hay harvests (boot vs. seedhead)

were more profitable (\$62 vs. \$76/ton, respectively, for SG breakeven price), ii) SG alone was preferable to BBIG and SG+BBIG, and iii) a single dormant-season harvest was preferable to either two-cut system in terms of producing cheaper biomass. These kinds of data can be valuable in developing practical models that can evaluate production options and production systems. However, empirically based data are needed from other forage trials to ensure that the models are well-grounded and can address different forage systems (Bermuda-tall fescue, NWSG-tall fescue, etc.) and different production models (stocker vs. cow-calf, spring vs. fall herds). A regional cooperative approach for developing these management models and tools should be explored. (SOURCE: C. Boyer, J. Lowe, J. Waller, P. Keyser, and G. Bates IN Proceedings 68th Southern Pastures and Forage Crop Improvement Conference, April 2014)

TOLERANCE OF FOUR CLOVER SPECIES TO VARYING RATES OF PRE AND POST-EMERGENT BROADLEAF PASTURE HERBICIDES

Broadleaf weed control in mixed grass/clover stands has long been an issue for beef and forage producers in Mississippi. There are few herbicides on the market that successfully control broadleaf weeds without causing serious damage to existing clover. Our goal was to incorporate into field experiments, broadleaf herbicides which exhibited greatest safety on clover. Our objectives were to evaluate the tolerance of four clover species to broadleaf herbicides applied pre and post-emergent in greenhouse studies. Varying rates of Pursuit (imazethapyr), Spartan (sulfentrazone), Raptor (imazamox), and Image (imazaquin) were applied to containerized, native soil seven days prior to planting arrowleaf, berseem, crimson, and white clover. Pursuit, Raptor, Image, and Aim (carfentrazone) were also applied post emergent when the same clover species reached the third trifoliolate growth stage. Pre-emergent data indicated that Raptor at 2.5 fl. oz. was least injurious to clover 28 days after planting, but was not more significant than Pursuit at 3 and 6 fl. oz. per acre. Post-emergent data indicated that Raptor at 12 fl. oz. per acre may be used in addition without causing significant damage to clover. In both studies, Image applied at 6 and 12 oz. caused the greatest clover injury at 21 days after treatment. Species interaction indicated that crimson clover was least affected by pre-emergent applications through 28 days after planting, but exhibited greatest injury from post-emergent treatments. Ongoing trials are currently evaluating rates of Sharpen (saflufenacil) alone and tank mixed with Pursuit applied to the same clover species. Field trials are also underway on mixed grass/clover pasture to evaluate early applications of 2,4-D and Pursuit mixtures, prior to a summer application of GrazonNext HL (2, 4-D + aminopyralid), Grazon P+D (picloram + 2, 4-D), and Rejuvra (aminocyclopyrachlor + triclopyr). We expect that by spraying broadleaf weeds at the juvenile state and after clover bloom, to obtain weed control with minimal clover stand loss. (SOURCE: David P. Russell and John Byrd IN Proceedings 68th Southern Pastures and Forage Crop Improvement Conference, April 2014)

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



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June 2014