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FORAGE NEWS

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

December 2013

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

THANK YOU KENTUCKY FARMERS



I'm sure you, like me, had a wonderful Thanksgiving dinner. As always during the Thanksgivings season we reflect on our freedom, along with all the other blessings we American often take for granted. How many took time to thank the American farmer. Let's look at some facts and some of Garry's opinions: Our farmers are one of the most unappreciated sectors of our workforce, our farmers are taken for granted more today than ever. In this Country, we enjoy the most abundant-safe-cheap (compared to most of the World) food and fiber is unprecedented. For example: in 1950 the average farmer was producing enough food for eighteen people, this year the average farmer will produce enough food for 163 people. In 1950, the average household spent 20.5% of their income on food – this year they will spend only 9.5%. Our farmers today face many challenges and deserve our respect and appreciation.

THANK YOU FARMERS!

FORAGES AT KCA



Our nineteenth consecutive Forages at KCA will be held from 2:00 – 4:00 on January 17, 2014. Our program theme is "Grazing – Health and Animal Rights". Speakers include Dr. Garry Lacefield and Dr. Roy Burris from the University of Kentucky and back by popular demand will be the keynote speaker Dr. Peter Ballerstedt.

Theme: Grazing – Health and Animal Rights

- 2:00 Welcome – Dr. Garry Lacefield
- 2:10 Grazing: More Important Now than Ever! - Dr. Garry Lacefield
- 2:30 Animal Rights – Animal Welfare: Protecting Animals OR A Threat to US Food Production and Our Way of Life? - Dr. Roy Burris
- 3:00 Red Meat and Our Health: Separating Scientific Fact from Politics, Emotion, and Misinformation - Dr. Peter Ballerstedt
- 3:45 Discussion
- 4:00 Adjourn

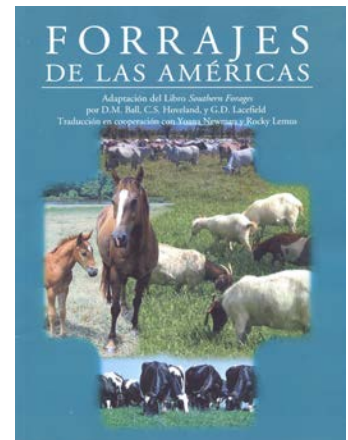
FORAGE VARIETY REPORTS NOW AVAILABLE



My thanks to Mr. Gene Olsen for all his hard work in getting our 2013 Forage Variety tests harvested, summarized and published. Reports are now available on our website at <http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage/>.

SOUTHERN FORAGES TRANSLATED INTO SPANISH

Southern Forages was written by Dr. Don Ball, Auburn University, Dr. Carl Hoveland, University of Georgia, and Dr. Garry Lacefield, University of Kentucky and was first released in 1991. Since that first edition, three additional editions have been released. It has been translated into Polish, Czech Republic, and Chinese and has just been translated into Spanish and released in November 2013. The Spanish edition was translated by Dr. Yoana Newman, University of Florida and Dr. Rocky Lemus, Mississippi State University. The book is available through the published, International Plant and Nutrition Institute (IPNI) and can be obtained at the following website:



<http://ppi-store.stores.yahoo.net/fodelasam.html>

SMALL RUMINANT GRAZING CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN LEXINGTON ON FEBRUARY 01, 2014



On Saturday, February 01, 2014, the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment along with other sponsors will host an all-day event focusing on grazing small ruminant animals such as sheep and goats at the Fayette County Extension Office. The program will begin at 8:30 a.m. and end at 2:30 p.m. The deadline for pre-registration is January 24, 2014. A registration fee of \$25 includes lunch and educational materials.

Dr. Ray Kaplan, renowned parasitologist, from the University of Georgia will headline the program with talks on "De-wormers" and "Reducing Parasites with Grazing Management". Other topics addressed on the program will be Agronomic and Livestock Benefits to Rotational Grazing, Hay Testing, Environmental Stewardship as well as updates on marketing from the Kentucky Department of Agriculture and an update on the UK Robinson Center for Appalachian Resource Sustainability.

Rounding out the Program will be a producer panel discussion with leading small ruminant producers discussing "What works for them".

Lastly, FAMACHA Training will be offered by Dr. Michelle Arnold, UK Extension Ruminant Veterinarian at the end of the Program at a cost of \$15.00 per person (for training materials). This training is not offered very often and will be a good opportunity for producers concerned about managing parasites in their operation.

For more information log on to the Robinson Center website at www2ca.uky.edu/rcars. or call 606-666-2438. (David Ditsch, Extension Agronomy Specialist/Robinson Station Superintendent)



AFGC ANNUAL CONFERENCE – MEMPHIS, TN

The annual American Forage & Grassland Conference will be held January 12-14, 2014 in Memphis. The Conference will feature leading forage speakers covering cutting edge forage-animal topics. Workshop sessions include:

National Forage Organizations: Improving Their Effectiveness and Collaboration

'Grass-Finished': What Do We Really Know and What Does It Really Mean?

Organic Forage-Livestock Management

Investing in Pasture Improvements Pays Dividends

Herbicide-Resistant Weeds in Agricultural Systems

Growing and Utilizing Forage Sorghums

Forage Production Effects on Southern Livestock Management

In addition, there will be many volunteer papers and posters along with a large exhibit and silent auction. Several competition events including Forage Spokesman, Photo Contest, Forage Bowls, Emerging Scientist Competition and Youth in Grazing Management Essay Contest.

The banquet will be highlighted by the Annual Awards presentations.

Register for one day or all three. Call, email, or go to web site for registration information and form (Phone: 800-944-2342, Email: info@afgc.org; Web site: www.afgc.org).

You can make reservations for your room at the Hilton Memphis (1-901-684-6664 ask for AFGC block). You will need to reserve your room by December 26, 2013 to get this rate. The cost is \$99 per night.



34TH KENTUCKY ALFALFA CONFERENCE

The 34th Kentucky Alfalfa Conference will be held February 20 at the Western Kentucky University Expo Center in Bowling Green. The program includes:

8:30 Registration, visit exhibits, silent auction

9:15 Welcome – Dr. Jack Rudolph

9:30 Role and Importance of Alfalfa in WKU

Teaching/Research/ Farming Programs – *Dr. Elmer Gray*

10:00 Alfalfa baleage/silage preservatives: Do they work? Are they Economical? – *Dr. Ray Smith*

10:30 Break, visit exhibits, silent auction

11:00 Alfalfa – Australia – Kentucky – *Dr. Garry Lacefield, Dr. Ray Smith, and Ms. Traci Missun*

11:15 Alfalfa for Summer Grazing – *Dr. Roy Burris*

11:30 Why aren't big square balers used more in Kentucky? – *Mr. Tom Keene*

11:45 Advances in Alfalfa Promotion – *Mr. Bill Talley*

12:00 Lunch, visit exhibits, silent auction

1:00 Alfalfa Awards and Silent Auction Results

1:30 Adjustments and Maintenance of Haying Equipment

Mr. Clayton Gerald,

Mr. John McCoy

Mr. Cris Scudder

2:45 Discussion

3:00 Adjourn

Will have a full house of "Exhibits" and a large group of Silent Auction items. Registration is \$15.00 (\$5.00 students) and includes meal, proceedings, educational materials and break. **No pre-registration is required.**

For additional information, contact Christi Forsythe at 270-365-7541, Ext. 221 or by e-mail at cforsyth@uky.edu.



UPDATED ANALYSIS ON FUNGICIDES AND ALFALFA

Last year, Headline® fungicide received a federal label for control of foliar diseases of alfalfa for use on seed, for hay, or for silage (with a 14-day pre-harvest interval in all cases). See additional label restrictions.

The April 9, 2013, issue of *Kentucky Pest News* included an article on the overall performance of Headline® fungicide based on public field research. The present article includes updated tables of field performance. These tables include all the data from the previous article plus two additional sources:

- UK field research conducted this past summer;

- A paper¹ on fungicide performance recently published by researchers in Wisconsin.

Updated summary of public research

The results of our analyses are shown in the table below, and key points are summarized here:

1. In almost all comparisons, applications of strobilurin fungicide reduced damage from foliar/stem diseases.
2. In spite of the reduction in disease damage, yield increase was observed in only 11 of 42 comparisons. Most of those yield increases occurred in the first or second cuttings, consistent with manufacturer reports. When they occurred, yield increases were almost always in the range of one- to three-tenths of a ton of dry matter per acre.
3. Forage quality (measured in various ways; see table) was improved in very few comparisons. It is important to note that there were also a number of instances where quality was slightly reduced in the fungicide-treated alfalfa (data not shown, available on request).
4. The physiological "greening" effect of strobilurin fungicides was not reported in alfalfa in experiments where such observations were included in the report.

Parameter	Total number comparisons*	Number beneficial responses**
Disease damage	42	36
Yield	42	11
Crude protein	30	5
Net energy for lactation	27	4
Relative feed value	5	1
Greening/senescence	5	0

*Each strobilurin fungicide in each cutting = a discrete comparison

**"Beneficial responses" refers to examples of statistically significant improvement in agronomic performance. Statistical discrimination among treatments at 10% error rate ($P \leq 0.1$)

Conclusions

It seems clear that application of a strobilurin fungicide very commonly reduces levels of foliar disease in alfalfa in humid regions of the USA. However, in research thus far, strobilurin fungicide was associated with increased forage yield in only about 25% of comparisons. Yield increases, when they occurred, almost always were in the first or second cutting. This may be because the fungus that causes spring black stem and leaf spot, which is most active in these earlier cuttings, is highly sensitive to Headline®. In any case, if considering the use of fungicide, best results will be obtained by applying during the growth phase of the forage for the first or second cutting.

Forage quality has been minimally improved by strobilurin fungicides in research thus far. This latter finding surprises us, because leaves represent high-quality forage, and we would expect that improved leaf health would translate to improved forage quality. Continuing research is advisable, since several of the growing seasons of these tests were unusually hot and dry; results economically favorable to fungicide use could occur in wet growing seasons.

¹Samac et al, 2013. Evaluating Headline Fungicide on Alfalfa Production and Sensitivity of Pathogens to Pyraclostrobin. Online. Plant Health Progress doi:10.1094/PHP-2013-0917-01-RS.

(Paul Vincelli, Extension Plant Pathologist and Ray Smith, Extension Forage Agronomist)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- JAN 12-14 AFGC Conference, Memphis, TN
- JAN 13 AFGC Dow Pasture Symposium, Memphis, TN
- JAN 15-18 Kentucky Cattlemen's Association Convention, Lexington
- JAN 17 Forages at KCA, Lexington
- FEB 1 Kentucky Small Ruminant Grazing Conference, Lexington
- FEB 4-7 NCBA, Nashville, TN
- FEB 20 34th Kentucky Alfalfa Conference, WKU Expo Center, Bowling Green

**Fame is a vapor, Popularity
an accident, Riches take
wings, but only Character
endures—Horace Greeley**

Garry D. Lacefield
Garry D. Lacefield
Extension Forage Specialist
December 2013

**Merry
Christmas**