



**29TH KENTUCKY
ALFALFA CONFERENCE
PROCEEDINGS**

*Volume 29, Number 2
Garry Lacefield & Christi Forsythe, Editors*

FEBRUARY 19, 2009

*Cave City Convention Center
Cave City, Kentucky*

Sponsored by
University of Kentucky • College of Agriculture • Cooperative Extension Service
Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council

Schedule for the Day

- 8:00 Registration, Visit Exhibits, Silent Auction
- 8:45 Welcome
- 9:00 Art and Science of Haymaking - Garry Lacefield
- 9:15 RFV vs RFQ - Which is better? - Tom Keene
- 9:30 Alfalfa Seed Price and Seeding Rate: Impact on Production Cost - Ray Smith
- 9:45 Alfalfa Hay for Horses: Myths vs. Reality - Laurie Lawrence
- 10:00 Break, Visit Exhibits, Silent Auction
- 10:30 Alfalfa as a Grazing Crop - Bill Payne
- 11:00 Keys to Success with Alfalfa Balage - Dennis Hancock
- 11:30 Roundup Ready Alfalfa and Future GMO's in Alfalfa - Dennis Gehler
- 12:00. Lunch
- 12:45 Alfalfa Awards Program and Silent Auction Results
- 1:00 Cost and Return of Alfalfa Hay Production - Kenny Burdine
- 1:45 How I Produce and Market Alfalfa Hay - Clayton Gerald
- 2:00 Blue Ribbon Alfalfa Panel - All Speakers
- 3:00 Adjourn

FOREWORD

This conference marks the twenty-ninth consecutive year we have come together to address problems and potentials of alfalfa. We are certainly encouraged with the interest in and opportunities for alfalfa in Kentucky. We are optimistic that we will observe expansion in acres, yield, and markets. It is our hope that the information presented herein and the discussions of the day will be of value to each of you in your alfalfa program.

On behalf of the Program Committee, I would like to express our thanks to each of you for your faithful participation over the past twenty-nine years. I also want to thank all speakers, moderators, committee members, and workers for their many contributions.

My personal thanks to the Program Committee, the Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council, and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture for their encouragement and assistance. I also want to thank all the exhibitors for their important contributions and financial support. A special thanks is extended to Mrs. Christi Forsythe for her assistance in preparing and editing the program and proceedings.

Garry Lacefield
Program Chairman
XXIX Annual Kentucky Alfalfa Conference

Mark your calendars and make plans now to attend our 30th Annual Kentucky Alfalfa Conference on February 25, 2010.

Visit our Extension Forage Website

<http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage>

KENTUCKY ALFALFA AWARDS

The Kentucky Alfalfa Awards Program was initiated in 2000 at the 20th Anniversary of the Kentucky Alfalfa Conference. The Awards Program is funded annually from revenues generated each year for the Silent Auction during the Annual Conference.

| Year | Warren Thompson Industry Award | Charlie Schnitzler Producer Award | Garry D. Lacefield Public Service Award |
|-------------|---|--|--|
| 2009 | Ken Carpenter | John McCoy | Ray Smith |
| 2008 | Mike Phillips | Clayton Geraldts | John Baylor |
| 2007 | Bret Winsett | Bill Payne | Dan Grigson |
| 2006 | Scott Cooper | George Eckler | Laurie Lawrence |
| 2005 | Barney Booher | Roy Reichenbach | Ken Johnson |
| 2004 | Gary Coughlin | Minos Cox | Mike Collins |
| 2003 | Phil Howell | Lee Robey | Monroe Rasnake Jimmy Henning |
| 2002 | Tom Keene | John Nowak | Billy Ray Smith |
| 2001 | Bill Talley | Larry Jeffries | Timothy H. Taylor W. C. Templeton, Jr. |
| 2000 | Warren Thompson | Sue Schnitzler* | Garry Lacefield |

*Accepted on behalf of her father who was tragically killed in a farming accident on March 11, 1991.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | PAGE |
|---|-------------|
| Art and Science of Haymaking Garry Lacefield | 1 |
| RFV vs RFQ - Which is better? Tom Keene | 2 |
| Alfalfa Seed Price and Seeding Rate: Impact on Production Cost Ray Smith | 8 |
| Alfalfa Hay for Horses: Myths vs. Reality Laurie Lawrence | 12 |
| Alfalfa as a Grazing Crop Bill Payne | 17 |
| Keys to Success with Alfalfa Balage Dennis Hancock | 20 |
| Roundup Ready Alfalfa and Future GMO's in Alfalfa Dennis Gehler | 26 |
| Cost and Return of Alfalfa Hay Production Kenny Burdine | 27 |
| How I Produce and Market Alfalfa Hay Clayton Geraldts | 31 |