



University of Kentucky  
UKnowledge

---

Forage News

Plant and Soil Sciences

---

3-1-2012

## Forage News [2012-03]

Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, University of Kentucky

Follow this and additional works at: [https://uknowledge.uky.edu/forage\\_news](https://uknowledge.uky.edu/forage_news)



Part of the [Plant Sciences Commons](#)

[Right click to open a feedback form in a new tab to let us know how this document benefits you.](#)

---

### Repository Citation

Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, University of Kentucky, "Forage News [2012-03]" (2012). *Forage News*. 72.

[https://uknowledge.uky.edu/forage\\_news/72](https://uknowledge.uky.edu/forage_news/72)

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the Plant and Soil Sciences at UKnowledge. It has been accepted for inclusion in Forage News by an authorized administrator of UKnowledge. For more information, please contact [UKnowledge@lsv.uky.edu](mailto:UKnowledge@lsv.uky.edu).



# FORAGE NEWS

Research & Education Center  
Princeton, KY 42445

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

## March 2012

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

### KENTUCKY ALFALFA CONFERENCE

The 32<sup>nd</sup> Kentucky Alfalfa Conference was held at the Cave City Convention Center on February 23, 2012. Participants visited exhibits and had the opportunity to bid on a large number of items at the Silent Auction. Speakers for the morning included, Dr. Garry Lacefield, Dr. Ray Smith, Mr. Tom Keene, Ms. Kim Field, Mr. Bill Talley, Ms. Beth Nelson and Dr. Jeff Lehmkuhler. The keynote event was a farmer panel in the afternoon. Speakers included Mr. Clayton Gerald, Mr. Bill Payne and Mr. Charles Powell. Proceedings of the Conference will be posted on our website soon.

The next (33<sup>rd</sup>) Conference will be at the Fayette County Extension Office February 21, 2013.

### KENTUCKY ALFALFA AWARDS

Three awards were presented at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Kentucky Alfalfa Conference at the Cave City Convention Center on February 23, 2012. Each year the Kentucky Alfalfa Conference recognized outstanding contributions in the Public, and Private sectors and a leading producer. This years' award recipients were:

Mr. Don Moore	Alfalfa Producer Award
Dr. Mark McCaslin	Alfalfa Industry Award
Mr. Gene Olson	Alfalfa Public Service Award

Congratulations Don, Mark and Gene.

### ALFALFA HAY AWARDS

The Kentucky Department of Agriculture Hay Testing Program presented the 2011 Alfalfa and Alfalfa-grass quality awards at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Kentucky Alfalfa Conference in Cave City February 23, 2012. Winners were:

Alfalfa		Alfalfa -Grass	
April	John Page	April	No producer
May	Kenny Humphrey	May	Geralds Farms
June	Geralds Farms	June	Donald Reynolds
July	John McCoy	July	Geralds Farms
August	John McCoy	August	Geralds Farms
September	Woodland Place Inc.	September	Jerry Samples
October	Dennis Wright	October	Geralds Farms
<b>Best Over: Champion Alfalfa Hay</b> John McCoy			

### KENTUCKY GRAZING SCHOOL

The Spring Grazing School will be held at the UKREC in Princeton April 10-11, 2012. This two-day event will consist of classroom and field activities. For a detailed program, see our website. The \$50.00 registration fee includes all materials, grazing manual, breaks and two lunches. To register, contact Lyndsay Jones, 804 W.P. Garrigus Bldg., Lexington, KY 40546-0215, Phone 859-257-7521 or E-mail [lyndsay.jones4@uky.edu](mailto:lyndsay.jones4@uky.edu)

### COOL SEASON GRASS WORKSHOP MAY 16<sup>TH</sup>

The American Forage and Grassland Council is again offering the popular cool season grass professional workshop May 16 in Rogers, AR (the day before the AFGC annual tour). This workshop is for forage professionals to gain knowledge and expertise on cool season grass varieties and management. Industry representatives, county agents, NRCS specialists and top producers have all benefitted from

this one day intensive training workshop. Full registration information and a detailed agenda can be found at [www.afgc.org](http://www.afgc.org).

### ATTEND THE AFGC SUMMER TOUR - MAY 17-18

Consider attending the American Forage and Grassland Council 1<sup>st</sup> annual National Tour in Rogers, Arkansas May 17-18. AFGC has decided to separate their field tour from the annual conference for the next three years. This allows a state forage council to work with AFGC board to put on a comprehensive forage tour and allows the AFGC board to focus on the annual national meeting. The Arkansas Forage and Grassland Council has planned an excellent tour; more details and registration information can be found at [www.afgc.org](http://www.afgc.org).

### SATURATED FAT AND CHOLESTEROL: HEALTH HAZARDS OR VITAL NUTRIENTS?

**ABSTRACT** - For more than thirty years public dietary policy has encouraged Americans to reduce their consumption of total fat, saturated fat, and cholesterol. Since animal products are a significant source of these nutrients, the official advice has been to limit the consumption of animal products in general and red meat in particular. But this advice has not produced the benefits promised when "Dietary Goals for Americans" were released in 1977. An objective review of the research demonstrates that the scientific basis for these recommendations was weak at the time, and that it has not grown stronger. Despite these shortcomings, the 2010 version of "Dietary Guidelines for Americans" continues these recommendations. The rationale for reducing consumption of cholesterol and saturated fat is based upon the theory that this will reduce the incidence of obesity as well as heart disease, diabetes and other chronic metabolic diseases. The data, in fact, refutes this theory. Since the adoption of these dietary guidelines overall fat, saturated fat, and cholesterol consumption have decreased to near or below the targeted levels. Yet the proportion of obese Americans has doubled, the incidence of coronary heart disease has not diminished, and the number of Americans diagnosed with Type 2 Diabetes has tripled.

In the 1960s the then-mainstream paradigm of the fattening carbohydrate was replaced with the unproven paradigm that dietary fat causes heart disease. Since then, however, science has continued to advance. Today an objective review of all the pertinent scientific literature regarding cholesterol reveals that: dietary cholesterol has no meaningful effect on total serum cholesterol levels; total serum cholesterol is unrelated to risk of Coronary Heart Disease; Low Density Lipoprotein cholesterol is, at best, a marginal risk factor for Coronary Heart Disease; higher total serum cholesterol is associated with greater longevity for women and seniors; lower total serum cholesterol is associated with greater cancer mortality. A similar review of the scientific literature regarding saturated fat reveals that: saturated fat does not cause heart disease; a low fat diet increases Cardio-Vascular Disease risk factors; high fat diets produce greater weight loss, better blood glucose control, and reduced Cardio-Vascular Disease risks.

This subject should be of significant concern to members of the forage industry. Flawed dietary advice to limit consumption of animal products is, at best, harmful to our industry. At worst it is harmful to the public. In addition, these flawed concepts have contaminated other disciplines, including our own with ideas such as the promotion of the "healthfulness" of grass-fed beef due to its lower content of saturated fat and cholesterol. (SOURCE: Peter Ballerstedt, Forage Product Manager, Barenbrug USA IN AFGC Proceedings and Abstracts, Louisville, KY, January 2012)

## HAY CONTEST RULES AND INFORMATION

### 2012 CONTEST DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS MARCH 30, 2012

1. Entrants must be an American Forage and Grassland Council (AFGC) direct member or affiliate member in good standing.
2. Entrants may enter one (1) sample per class. **Fee is \$20.00 per entry.** Make check payable to AFGC. Entrants will receive a forage analysis for each entry. Entrants may enter any or all classes.
3. Sample must be grown by the exhibitor.
4. Hay, baleage/haylage and corn silage samples must have been harvested, baled or ensiled with conventional equipment. Samples resulting from special handling such as hand harvesting will be disqualified. Judges' decision will be final.
5. Hay and baleage samples should include:
  - Approximately one-half (1/2) pound core sample for dry hay.
  - Approximately one (1) pound core sample for baleage/haylage.\*
  - Approximately five (5) pounds of cross section of a bale (10"x14"x18") string tied for handling.
  - Package samples from large bales or stacks in approximately the same size and/or weight and string tie.
  - Corn silage samples should be 1 gallon of material sealed in a clean plastic bag.\*
  - \*Baleage/Haylage and silage samples should be either frozen or cold stored until shipping. Frozen or cold stored samples should be shipped on Monday to be received before the weekend.
6. Label each entry with the exhibitor's name, full address, type of forage and forage show class to be entered. An entry registered in the wrong class will be considered the exhibitor's error and may be reclassified by the judges.
7. Tie, wrap and label each entry separately to facilitate handling. Do not wrap dry hay entries in air tight bags that may cause sweating, mildew, and odor. If plastic bags are used for dry hay wrapping, make several small holes in the bag to allow the sample to breathe.
8. Forage Classes (Grass class sample not to exceed 10% legume and Alfalfa Class sample not to exceed 10% grass):
  - I. Warm-Season perennial grasses (i.e. bermudagrass, bahiagrass, johnsongrass)
  - II. Warm-season annual grasses (i.e. millets, sorghums, teff)
  - III. Cool-Season perennial grasses (i.e. tall fescue, orchardgrass)
  - IV. Cool-Season annual grasses (i.e. ryegrass, triticale)
  - V. Legume-Grass mixtures (50/50 is ideal)
  - VI. Alfalfa
  - VII. Baleage/Haylage (grass-based may contain some legume)
  - VIII. Corn Silage
9. Samples will be judged as follows:
  - Forage Analysis 70%
  - Physical Appearance 30%
  - TOTAL SCORE 100%\*Samples with nitrate-N (NO<sub>3</sub>-N) levels over 1136 parts per million (ppm), or total nitrate (NO<sub>3</sub>) levels over 5000 ppm, on a dry matter basis will be disqualified.
10. Awards may be presented to the top three (3) entries in each class. Judges are not required to present awards.

**Contest deadline is March 30, 2012. HAY MUST BE FROM 2011 CROP ONLY!!!**

**Please make check payable to AFGC and send payment (\$20.00 per entry) to: AFGC, PO Box 867, Berea, KY 40403**

**Please ship your samples directly via FedEx or UPS to:**

**Benton County Extension Office, Attn: Robert Seay,  
1204 SW 14th St. – Suite 2, Bentonville, AR 72712**

### THE RELATIONSHIP OF YIELD AND DIGESTIBILITY IN

#### COMMONLY USED SUMMER ANNUAL GRASSES

**ABSTRACT** - Trials conducted at Virginia Tech's Southern Piedmont Agricultural Research and Extension Center in 2009, 2010, and 2011, evaluated the yield and digestibility of summer annual grass varieties including conventional and BMR forage sorghums species and pearl millet. Plots were established in early June and harvested when the average height was 30 inches. Total yield was ranged from 4911 to 8289 lb DM/acre in 2009 and 3670 to 5297 lb DM/acre in 2010. Average over harvests, in vitro true digestibility also varied, ranging from 59 to 76% and 66 to 76% for the 2009 and 2010 growing seasons, respectively. What was most interesting is that the highest yielding variety in the trial was also one of the most digestible. This indicates that high yield and digestibility may not be mutually exclusive traits. To better understand how to use yield and digestibility data when selecting or recommending a summer annual grass species-variety, the difference from average for the yield and digestibility was graphed and the graph was divided into four

quadrants. The upper right hand quadrant includes varieties that have above average yield and digestibility. These species-variety combinations would be the most desirable to include in a forage production system. In contrast, the bottom left hand quadrant contains species-variety combinations with below average yield and digestibility. These varieties would likely be the last choice for including in forage production programs. (SOURCE: C.D. Teutsch, C. McCracken, and M. Northcutt, Virginia Tech, Blackstone and Advanta Seed, Hereford, TX, respectively IN AFGC Proceedings and Abstracts, Louisville, KY, January 2012).

### DETERMINING THE EFFECT OF MOWING HEIGHT AND FERTILITY ON ORCHARDGRASS YIELD AND PERSISTENCE

**ABSTRACT** - During the last 15 years farmers across the eastern U.S. have reported reduced survival of orchardgrass hay stands. Recent surveys and discussions with county agents and forage specialists suggest that close mowing heights using disc mowers may be a major factor causing orchardgrass stand decline. We designed an experiment in the spring of 2011 to determine the effect of mowing height and fertilizer rate on orchardgrass yield and persistence. A well managed orchardgrass hay field was subdivided into 5' x 20' plots with three cutting heights (1/2", 2", 4") and two fertility treatments in all combinations. The fertility treatments consisted of nitrogen (60 lbs/A) and potassium (100 lbs/A) applied after the 1st, 2nd, and 4th cuttings. Preliminary results showed a cutting height effect and a fertility effect even after the first two harvests. Orchardgrass stand persistence declined to less than 25% ground cover in all 1/2" cutting height treatments for both the control and fertility treatments. At the 2" cutting height the fertility treatment provided higher yield and stand persistence over the control and similar stand persistence to the 4" cutting height. Not surprising, the 4" cutting height with fertilizer produced the highest yields, but the 4" cutting height without fertilizer maintained an acceptable stand density. In summary, these results suggest that low cutting heights prevalent with disc mowers may be a primary reason for observed declines in orchardgrass stands. (SOURCE: S. Ray Smith and Leah Saylor, Professor, University of Kentucky, and Senior Research Student, Asbury University, respectively IN AFGC Proceedings and Abstracts, Louisville, KY, January 2012)

### EXTENSION'S RESPONSE TO THE FESCUE ENDOPHYTE PROBLEM

**ABSTRACT** - Fescue is grown on about two million acres in Arkansas and fescue toxicity causes millions of dollars in lost livestock production annually. Many producers don't believe their livestock suffer from fescue toxicity, even though the animals exhibit common fescue toxicity behaviors. Extension efforts focused on improving producers' knowledge so they can make informed decisions on managing fescue toxicity. Research in Arkansas focused on improving both animal management and forage management to reduce the problem. Studies included development of commercial novel endophytes, effect of fescue toxicity on breeding animals, stocker calves, and changes in toxin content of fescue hay. Surveys conducted with producers helped define attitudes toward toxic fescue and novel endophyte fescue. Information at field days and field demonstrations showed producers the process of converting toxic fescue fields to novel endophyte fescue. A regional conference showcased the state of current knowledge regarding the fescue endophyte and management strategies to lessen its impact on livestock production. An Extension publication was developed to answer many common questions about managing fescue and to outline recommended management strategies for spring and fall calving beef herds and for stocker calves grazing toxic fescue. (SOURCE: J. A. Jennings, K. J. Simon, K. C. Coffey, P. A. Beck, C. P. West, M. L. Looper, and D. S. Hubbell, III, University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture, IN AFGC Proceedings and Abstracts, Louisville, KY, January 2012)

### UPCOMING EVENTS

APR 10-11 Kentucky Grazing School, U.K. Research & Education Center, Princeton

  
Garry D. Acefield

Extension Forage Specialist  
March 2012