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Forage News

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## Forage News [2011-02]

Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, University of Kentucky

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# 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>

## February 2011

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

### KENTUCKY ALFALFA CONFERENCE IN LEXINGTON

The 31<sup>st</sup> Kentucky Alfalfa Conference will be held February 24, 2011 at the Fayette County Extension Office in Lexington. The program committee has put together an excellent program with leading alfalfa experts covering important, practical topics. We are fortunate to have nationally recognized alfalfa specialist Dr. Dan Undersander, Extension Forage Specialist, University of Wisconsin as our keynote speaker. We expect a full house of exhibitors and a large Silent Auction. The program begins at 8:00 Eastern Standard Time and will conclude at 3:00. The agenda for the day includes:

- 7:30 a.m. Registration, Silent Auction, Visit Exhibits
- 8:00 Welcome
- 8:15 Alfalfa Varieties for Today and Tomorrow – Dr. Ray Smith
- 8:30 Keys to Getting a good Stand of Alfalfa – Dr. Garry Lacefield
- 8:45 Making your Fertilizer Dollar go Further – Dr. Greg Schwab
- 9:00 Hay Drying, Preservatives, Conditioning, Ash Content, etc. – Dr. Dan Undersander
- 9:45 Discussion
- 10:00 Break, Visit Exhibits, Silent Auction
- 10:30 Alfalfa Hay for Horses: Myth vs. Reality – Dr. Laurie Lawrence
- 11:00 Dollars & Cents of Alfalfa Production – Mr. Kenny Burdine
- 11:30 What's New in Hay Harvesting Equipment – Dr. Dan Undersander
- 12:00 Lunch and Alfalfa Awards
- 1:00 KFGC Business Meeting
- 1:30 Silent Auction Results
- 1:45 Forage Spokesman
- 3:00 Adjourn

Registration is \$15.00 and includes refreshments, lunch, proceedings and other alfalfa-related materials and publications. Pre-registration is not required and CCA credits will be available.

### AG DEVELOPMENT BOARD APPROVES FERTILIZER AS FORAGE COST SHARE

The Kentucky Ag Development Board has approved "Fertilizer" as a cost share for forages for 2011. The new program will include fertilizer and soil amendments as a cost share item to establish or renovate legumes into existing pastures or to establish perennial forage crops. This is an important and timely issue for Kentucky forages following the past four years of weather extremes and the severe damage our pasture and hayfields have suffered.

### VALUE OF LEGUMES IN PASTURE

Over the years, many stocker grazing studies have been conducted at Auburn University. Under the leadership of Dr. Don Ball, a detailed summary of thirty grazing studies has been completed. A summary (see table) shows that eight of the top ten involved legumes. A copy of this publication is on our website <http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage/STOCKER%20CATTLE%20PUB-%20ANR-1348.pdf>

### Ten Lowest Calculated Pasture Costs/lb of Gain.

Pasture type	Grazing days	ADG	Pasture cost/ac	Pasture cost/lb
Tall Fescue w/Ladino	205	1.53	\$172.26	\$0.30
Orchardgrass w/Ladino	238	1.62	\$172.08	\$0.30
Tall Fescue w/Birdsfoot	194	1.51	\$173.38	\$0.44
Bermudagrass w/Vetch	161	1.29	\$230.75	\$0.47
Sericea Lespedeza	139	1.87	\$148.84	\$0.49
Sericea Lespedeza	139	1.65	\$148.84	\$0.54
Sericea Lespedeza	139	1.39	\$148.84	\$0.60
Rye & Ryegrass	153	1.36	\$318.34	\$0.60
Bermudagrass w/Rye	161	1.30	\$328.35	\$0.62
Rye, Oats & Crimson Clover	121	1.37	\$352.78	\$0.65

Ball, D.M. and W. Prevatt, Stocker Cattle Performance and Calculated Pasture Costs, Auburn University, ANR-1348, June 2009.

### AFGC ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 13-15

Join the **American Forage and Grassland Council** and its host – the **Indiana Forage Council** in French Lick, IN, for the very best in education, exhibits and networking. French Lick is only an hour west of Louisville. You will hear relevant presentations about forage production and utilization practices and go on outstanding tours. From the opening program to the closing session, you'll find activities and information designed to help you navigate today's forage and grassland environment. The Forage Spokesperson Competition, Forage Bowl, National Hay Show, Emerging Scientist Competition, Photo Contest and more await you in French Lick, IN, June 12-15, 2011. For more information call 800-944-2342 or visit [www.afgc.org](http://www.afgc.org)! Registration will be opened shortly. With the meeting so close let's overwhelm AFGC with participants from Kentucky.

### NEW SERVICE FOR KFGC MEMBERS

If you are an active member of the Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council, then a new service is available to you. We now have an easy method for you to log onto the members only section of the AFGC website ([www.afgc.org](http://www.afgc.org)). Simply use your email address at your user name and `afgc2010` for the password. Log on and take a look at one of the advantages of membership today. If you have any trouble logging on call 1-800-944-AFGC (2342).

### AFGC NATIONAL HAY CONTEST

**THE NATIONAL HAY CONTEST** recognizes top quality hay being produced by AFGC members. The contest has 8 Forage Classes that may participate. Contestants may participate by submitting a hay sample (see contest guidelines for details) along with a \$20 entry fee. Samples will be lab tested and judged. Cash awards are given to the top 3 samples in each class along with a certificate and other recognition by AFGC. This contest has several specifications in regards to sample submission, etc. so it is highly recommended that you review the guidelines at [www.afgc.org](http://www.afgc.org) before submitting a sample. **The deadline to submit samples is April 15, 2011!**

## KENTUCKY GRAZING SCHOOL - APRIL 13-14, 2011

The first Kentucky Grazing School of the year will be held in Princeton, KY April 13-14 at the UK Research and Education Center. Day one begins at 7:30 a.m. and ends at 6 p.m. local time. Day two starts at 7:30 a.m. and ends at 4:30 p.m. The school is open to anyone, but is geared toward new farmers and existing farmers who want to improve their grazing operation.

The school offers classroom and hands-on training for producers. Participants will visit field sites, participate in field exercises and tour demonstration plots. Attendees will design a grazing system based on their own property by the end of the school. This program will show participants different grazing systems that allow producers to grow forages earlier and longer.

Presenters are UK dairy, beef, forage and veterinary specialists. Other presenters include a grazing specialist with the Natural Resources and Conservation Service and the Kentucky territory manager of the fencing company Gallagher USA.

The registration fee is \$50, and preregistration is necessary because space is limited to the first 45 applicants at each site. To download a Grazing School flyer and preregister, go online to [www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage](http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage) and click on the grazing school tab under upcoming events. Or contact Dr. Ray Smith at 859-257-3358 or [raysmith1@uky.edu](mailto:raysmith1@uky.edu). Payment is required to reserve a spot.

## FORAGES AT KCA

It was good to see and visit with so many of you at our Forage Program during the KCA Convention. This marked our sixteenth such conference and I was delighted with the program and with the best attendance over the 16 years. I want to say a special THANKS to our excellent group of speakers, Dr. Laurie Lawrence, Dr. Jeff Lehmkuhler, Dr. Ray Smith and Dr. Byron Sleugh, who traveled from Iowa to participate. I also appreciate Gene Olson and Adam Probst for all their assistance with the publications and display. Special thanks to the KCA staff for their cordial hospitality with special appreciation to Dave Maples, Carrie Brown and Becky Thompson. See you next year.

## USDA DECISION CLEARS THE WAY FOR FORAGE GENETICS TO SELL SEED FOR SPRING PLANTING

January 27, 2011 – Today, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced the deregulation of Roundup Ready Alfalfa (RRA) without conditions.

This was the final step in an extensive environmental review process undertaken by the USDA that took 46 months to complete. With the return of RRA to the U.S. market, alfalfa growers will once again have the option to use this safe, beneficial technology. Some of the benefits of RRA include a more productive and profitable crop, with RRA users self reporting a \$110 per-acre advantage over conventional alfalfa. For many growers RRA also requires less use of crop protection products, providing both financial and environmental benefits.

"We are very pleased that the USDA has deregulated the product without conditions," said Mark McCaslin, President of Forage Genetics International, a co-developer of RRA. McCaslin noted that Forage Genetics and other licensed seed companies are prepared to sell RRA seed to growers for the spring planting season.

"With this decision, the USDA has acknowledged that in these difficult economic times, America's farmers need every advantage to stay competitive and help provide a reliable, affordable food supply for the U.S. and people worldwide," McCaslin said. "To feed a hungry world, we need all types of agriculture – biotech, conventional and organic options. Forage Genetics supports alfalfa forage and seed production for all markets and is a leading alfalfa seed supplier to the biotech, conventional, export and organic markets," he added.

McCaslin emphasized that Forage Genetics and the seed industry remain deeply committed to stewardship programs that enable co-existence and grower choice. "These stewardship programs, designed by teams representing seed companies, forage/seed growers and various market channels, provide assurance that RRA can safely co-exist with other crops." McCaslin said.

## PROCEEDINGS ON WEBSITE

Proceedings from the Forages at KCA and Heart of America Grazing Conference will be available on our Forage Website after February 15.

## KFGC UPDATE

I would like to take this opportunity to thank KFGC Board members Dan Grigson and Rick Greenwell for their dedication and support to KFGC during their terms as a Director of the Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council. Congratulations to the following individuals who were (re)elected by the KFGC membership for a 2011-2013 Director position; **Producers:** Jeff Stephens, Mike Davis and Jim Landis; **Industry:** Ralph Quillin and Phil Howell; and **Public:** Kim Field, Kevin Lyons and Tommy Yankey.

The Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council (KFGC) is your state-wide forage organization which promotes the use of forages. One of the primary goals of KFGC is to increase the productivity and profitability of KY's forage producers. Some of the ways this can be done is by increasing forage yield and quality and by improving forage utilization and marketing. To address these and other forage-related issues, KFGC sponsors educational programs such as the KY Grazing Conference, Alfalfa Conference, Master Grazer Programs, Master Grazer School, forage field days and tours.

If you have not already done so, please consider becoming a member of KFGC in 2011. Annual membership dues are \$20 for individual members. KFGC members receive the Forage News, The Forage Leader and Hay and Forage Grower. These publications will help keep you informed about the latest forage research and upcoming forage educational programs. Membership forms can be printed off the KFGC website listed below. If you don't have access to the KFGC website you can send your name and address, with your dues. Please send all dues to Tom Keene at N222-B Ag. Science North, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40546.

For information on forages and upcoming forage programs go to [www.kfgc.org](http://www.kfgc.org) or UK's forage website at [www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage](http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage). (Don Sorrell, President KFGC)

## HEART OF AMERICA GRAZING CONFERENCE

Over 200 from 15 states and three countries braved the snowy conditions to attend the 10<sup>th</sup> Heart of America Grazing Conference held January 25-26 at the Holiday Inn-Hurstbourne in Louisville. Audience members were treated to a delicious banquet meal on the evening of the 25<sup>th</sup> with program consisting of Kentucky Agriculture presented by University of Kentucky Associate Dean for Extension, Dr. Jimmy Henning. The keynote address was "Forages Around the World: Reflections and Observations" by U.K. Extension Forage Specialist, Dr. Garry Lacefield. The program on January 26 included a group of excellent speakers speaking on topics ranging from Confinement to Grazing, How to Determine Pasture Quantity, Tall Fescue-Endophyte, Organic Dairying, Mob Grazing, Integrated Weed Management, Co-Species Grazing, Grazing Non-Traditional Forages and Extending the Grazing Season. Speakers included Mr. Bill Payne, Dr. Ray Smith, Dr. Glen Aiken, Mr. Jake Schmitz, Mr. Mark Kennedy, Mr. Jason Tower, Mr. Jeff McCutcheon and Mr. Ed Ballard.

Participants had the opportunity to visit over thirty exhibits and bid on over 25 items in the Silent Auction.

The 11<sup>th</sup> Heart of America Grazing Conference will be held January 25-26, 2012 at the Holiday Inn in Mt. Vernon, Illinois. For more information contact Teresa Steckler [tsteckle@illinois.edu](mailto:tsteckle@illinois.edu) or Ed Ballard [Edward@consolidated.net](mailto:Edward@consolidated.net).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

FEB 21-22 Mid-South Stocker Conference, Bowling Green  
FEB 24 31<sup>st</sup> Kentucky Alfalfa Conference, Lexington  
APR 13-14 Kentucky Grazing School, UK Research & Education Center, Princeton  
JUN 13-15 AFGC Annual Meeting, French Lick, IN  
JUL 21 UK All Commodity Field Day, Princeton



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February 2011