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Forage News

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## Forage News [2010-03]

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>

## March 2010

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

### KENTUCKY ALFALFA CONFERENCE

#### REFLECTIONS AFTER 30 YEARS

On February 25 farmers, industry and educational personnel from Kentucky and many states met in Cave City, KY for the 30<sup>th</sup> Kentucky Alfalfa Conference. Dr. Garry Lacefield, UK Forage Specialist, is the one individual who has been most instrumental in developing and carry out this annual conference.

Two key events during 1980 resulted in a renewed emphasis on alfalfa in Kentucky and the beginning of the Alfalfa Conference. In the summer of 1980, Dr. Lacefield was invited by the Certified Alfalfa Seed Council on a study tour of the alfalfa seed producing area in five western states. Later that fall, Dr. Lacefield, along with Roy Catlett, Shelby County Agriculture Extension Agent; Dr. Monroe Rasnake, UK Animal Waste Management Specialist; and Charlie Schnitzler and Wallace Campbell, Lincoln County alfalfa producers, made several farm visits looking at alfalfa production in Shelby County. Following these two events and with the encouragement and support of UK forage and agronomy specialists, agriculture agents and Charlie Schnitzler, Dr. Lacefield made plans for the first Alfalfa Conference in Shelby County in January of 1981.

Over the years, the program content of this conference has focused largely on the basics such as soil testing, fertility, weed control, insect and disease control, establishment, varieties, harvesting, marketing and economics. In addition to these basics, timely, cutting-edge topics dealing with advances in seed coating, variety development, hybrid alfalfa, grazing tolerance, Roundup Ready, baleage and pest management have been incorporated into the program. Other valuable parts of the Kentucky Alfalfa Conference include: Industry Exhibits, Forage Producer Awards, Silent Auction and the Industry, Producer and Public Service Awards.

The Kentucky Alfalfa Conference has stood the test of time because of the support of many individuals and agriculture organizations, but without the inspiration and hard work of Dr. Garry Lacefield there may not have been a first Kentucky Alfalfa Conference let alone a thirtieth. During the 30<sup>th</sup> Alfalfa Conference, Dr. Garry

Lacefield was recognized for his dedication to this conference. Thank You, Dr. Lacefield. (SOURCE: Don Sorrell, President, Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council.)



### KENTUCKY ALFALFA AWARDS

Alfalfa Awards were presented during the 30<sup>th</sup> Kentucky Alfalfa Conference in Cave City February 25, 2010. Winners were:

Mr. Charles Powell– Charles Schnitzler Producer Award  
Mr. Jeff Medlin – Warren Thompson Industry Award  
Dr. Joe Bouton & Dr. Don Ball – Garry Lacefield Public Service Award

Congratulations – Charles, Jeff, Joe & Don!

During the 30<sup>th</sup> Kentucky Alfalfa Conference Appreciation Banquet held on February 24 preceding the Conference four "Lifetime Alfalfa Conference Appreciation Awards" were presented. Awards were presented to:

Mr. Warren Thompson  
Dr. Monroe Rasnake  
Mrs. Christi Forsythe  
Mrs. Cheryl Lacefield

Thank you Warren, Monroe, Christi and Cheryl for all you have done to make the conference run smooth for 30 years.

### HAY WINNERS

The Kentucky Department of Agriculture present their Hay Awards during the 30<sup>th</sup> Kentucky Alfalfa Conference in Cave City February 25, 2010. Winners by month included:

Alfalfa/Grass		Alfalfa	
<b>May 2009</b> Mark Thomas	Ewing	<b>May 2009</b> John McCoy	Bowling Green
<b>June 2009</b> Joe Hobbs	Flaherty	<b>June 2009</b> David Glover	Trenton
<b>July 2009</b> Loraine Staples	Olmstead	<b>July 2009</b> John McCoy	Bowling Green
<b>August 2009</b> Jeff Morris	Stanford	<b>August 2009</b> John McCoy	Bowling Green
<b>September 2009</b> Jim Green	Frankfort	<b>September 2009</b> John McCoy	Bowling Green
<b>October 2009</b> Nick Powers	Vine Grove	<b>October 2009</b> No producers	
<b>Best Overall Champion Alfalfa Hay 2009</b> John McCoy, Bowling Green, KY			

My thanks to Kim Field and all the staff at the Kentucky Department of Agriculture Hay Testing Service for providing this service and coordinating the Hay Awards Program.

### UK GRAZING ALFALFA DVD ON YOUTUBE

Several years ago Mr. Dave Stalion, in Ag. Communications, worked with us to do a DVD on Grazing Alfalfa. The video and DVD were distributed widely and the supply has been exhausted for several years. Over the past few years, several people have asked me to put it on YouTube. I asked Dr. Gary Palmer two weeks ago about the process. He immediately contacted Rich Phelps and today it has been posted. To view the two part DVD go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KIPahL3tlwo> for part one and <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=29nnF1zst6o&feature=related> for part two. My thanks to Gary and Rich for this rapid response to my inquiry.

## KENTUCKY GRAZING SCHOOL APRIL 14-15

The spring Kentucky Grazing School will be held at the University of Kentucky Research & Education Center in Princeton on April 14-15. Program for the two day event includes:

### Wednesday April 14, 2010

- 7:30 Registration & refreshments
- 8:00 Introduction of staff and participants
- 8:20 Benefits of rotational grazing – Lacefield
- 8:40 Growth of grasses and legumes and their response to grazing – Smith
- 9:20 Understanding traditional forages – Lacefield
- 9:50 Establishment of forages in pasture systems – Smith
- 10:15 Break
- 10:30 Meeting nutritional needs on pasture – Amaral-Phillips
- 11:15 Grazing Math Concepts – Lehmkuhler
- 11:45 Value of shade and water – Lehmkuhler
- 12:05 Portable/seasonal water systems - Laurent
- 12:20 Lunch
- 1:05 Fence chargers for effective grazing - McGill
- 1:30 Travel to field site
- 1:40 Introduction to temporary fence and setting up water systems– McGill
- 2:00 Hands-on building a rotational grazing system in the field: assessing pasture yield and setting up small paddocks – Smith and Lehmkuhler
- 3:45 Fence building: Understanding how to build and use temporary fencing and high tensile fencing. - McGill
- 5:00 Methods to assess pasture production and determine stocking rate: Grazing Stick, Hand sampling, Rising plate meter - Smith and other speakers
- 6:00 Adjourn for the day- Supper on your own

### Thursday April 15, 2010

- 7:30 Refreshments
  - 8:00 Extending the grazing season: plant considerations- Lacefield
  - 8:30 Forage systems for beef production.
  - 9:00 Cost share programs from NRCS.
  - 9:30 Minerals for grazing cattle. – Amaral-Phillips
  - 10:15 Break
  - 10:30 Parasite control and rotational grazing - Bilderback
  - 11:00 Fundamentals of laying out a grazing system. – Ray Smith
  - 11:30 Producer panel
  - 12:00 Lunch
  - 12:45 Designing your own grazing system- all
  - 1:35 Travel to field site
  - 1:45 Field exercise. Observe grazed paddocks and hear reports of each group
  - 2:45 Tour demonstration plots of annual forages for fall grazing
  - 3:30 Discussion of multiple benefits of managed grazing: fertility, weeds, etc.
  - 4:00 Review your grazing system
  - 4:30 Graduation and final comments
- Registration fee is \$45 which includes all materials, grazing manual, lunch and breaks. To registration, make a check to Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council and send to Adam Probst, N222C Ag. Science, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY. For more information call Adam at 859-257-0597 or e-mail [adam.probst@uky.edu](mailto:adam.probst@uky.edu).

## **USDA ISSUES FINAL RULE ON ORGANIC ACCESS TO PASTURE**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12, 2010 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced details of the final regulation regarding access to pasture for organic livestock operations. This rule amends the National Organic Program (NOP) regulations to clarify the use of pasture in raising organic ruminants.

"Clear and enforceable standards are essential to the health and success of the market for organic agriculture," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "The final rule published today will give consumers confidence that organic milk or cheese comes from cows raised on pasture, and organic family farmers the assurance that there is one, consistent pasture standard that applies to dairy products."

The final rule provides certainty to consumers that organic livestock production is a pasture based system in which animals are actively grazing pasture during the grazing season. The majority of organic dairy and ruminant livestock producers are already grazing animals and maintaining pastures that meet the requirements of this rule. These standards contain clear requirements that will provide

greater assurance that all producers are being held to the same standards.

USDA received a substantial number of comments on provisions of the rule affecting finish feeding practices of slaughter livestock, and has extended the comment period for this provision for 60 days. Finish feeding is commonly used by organic farmers and ranchers to improve the grade of beef and involves feeding livestock grain

"It is difficult to decouple standards for milking cows from standards for finish feeding," said Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan. "Since finish feeding gets swept up into this dairy rulemaking, we are taking an extra step and inviting public comment on the finish feeding requirements. We want to be certain that our actions pertaining to finish feeding are aligned with organic principles."

This final rule is the culmination of a process that was initiated in 2005 when the National Organic Standards Board recommended that ruminants obtain a minimum 30 percent dry matter intake for at least 120 days. The proposed rule, published on Oct. 28, 2008, received over 26,000 comments from producers, retailers, handlers, certifying agents, consumers, trade associations, organic associations, animal welfare organizations, consumer groups, state and local government entities and various industry groups.

The main components of the rule include:

- Animals must graze pasture during the grazing season, which must be at least 120 days per year;
- Animals must obtain a minimum of 30 percent dry matter intake from grazing pasture during the grazing season;
- Producers must have a pasture management plan and manage pasture as a crop to meet the feed requirements for the grazing animals and to protect soil and water quality; and,
- Livestock are exempt from the 30 percent dry matter intake requirements during the finish feeding period, not to exceed 120 days. Livestock must have access to pasture during the finishing phase.

The final rule becomes effective 120 days after publication, June 17, 2010. Operations which are already certified organic will have one year to implement the provisions. Operations which obtain organic certification after the effective date will be expected to demonstrate full compliance. (SOURCE: Michael Jarvis/Billy Cox News Release, Ag. Marketing Service, 2-12-2010)

## **UK FORAGE VARIETY TEST AVAILABLE**

Our thanks to Mr. Gene Olson, Forage Variety Test Coordinator, for getting "fifteen" different Forage Variety Tests summarized and published. Results are available on our website at <http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage/ForageVarietyTrials2.htm> and at your County Extension Office.

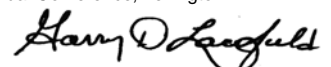
## **POINTS TO PONDER**

"You cannot legislate the poor into prosperity by legislating the wealthy out of prosperity. What one person receives without working for, another person must work for without receiving. The government cannot give to anybody anything that the government does not first take from somebody else. When half of the people get the idea that they do not have to work because the other half is going to take care of them, and when the other half gets the idea that it does no good to work because somebody else is going to get what they work for, that my dear friend, is the beginning of the end of any nation. You cannot multiply wealth by dividing it."

Adrian Rogers, 1931

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- APR 14-15 Kentucky Grazing School, UK Research & Education Center, Princeton
- AUG 9-10 Kentucky Grazing School, UK Animal Research Center, Versailles
- SEP 1-4 National Hay Association Annual Conference, Lexington



Garry D. Lacefield  
Extension Forage Specialist  
March 2010