

ALFALFA FOR SUMMER GRAZING

Jason Sandefur
Manager
Berle Clay Farm
Paris, Kentucky

Jason manages the Berle Clay Farm in Paris, Kentucky. The farm has been in the Clay family since the 1770's. The Homestead was built in 1778.

The farming operation consist of approximately 680 acres of orchardgrass-clover, 300 acres of orchardgrass-alfalfa, 210 acres of tall fescue-clover, 100 acres of crops, 13 acres of tobacco and 70 acres in roads, buildings, etc.

The cattle operation consist of approximately 225 cow-calf pairs, 275 developing heifers, 175 feeder heifers, 700 stockers, and 210 calves to preconditioning.

In addition to using alfalfa for hay and haylage, Jason uses alfalfa as a summer grazing crop. He typically grazes from early June through mid-September (approximately 100 days). His stocking rate will average approximately 1.8 hd/ac with a stocking density of 10-25 hd/ac. He rotates every 2-5 days. Although there are year to year variations, he usually averages approximately 2.25 pounds per day gain, and usually exceeds 400 pounds per acre at a cost of approximately 0.26 cents per pound of gain.

In addition to all of Jason's activities as Manager of Berle Clay Farm, he is also active in KCA and other state and local projects and activities.

In 2001, Jason became the American Forage and Grassland Council's National Forage Spokesman. He earned this high distinction by competing with other forage producers from throughout the USA and Canada. We are very proud of Jason, his program and the recognition he has brought to Kentucky Forages.

Garry D. Lacefield
Extension Forage Specialist
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