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FORAGE NEWS

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

FEBRUARY 2007

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

27TH KENTUCKY ALFALFA CONFERENCE

I look forward to seeing you at the Cave City Convention Center February 22 for our 27th Kentucky Alfalfa Conference. The program committee has put together an outstanding program dealing with a range of topics from how an alfalfa plant grows to cutting-edge research on Pea Aphid and Roundup Ready Alfalfa. Details of the program are listed below:

- 8:00 Registration, Visit Exhibits, Silent Auction
- 8:45 Welcome
- 9:00 Alfalfa Information on the Web – Scott Flynn
- 9:20 How the Alfalfa Plant Grows: Impact on Management – Ray Smith
- 9:40 Requirements for Successful Alfalfa Establishment – Garry Lacefield
- 10:00 Break, Visit Exhibits, Silent Auction
- 10:30 Alfalfa Hay for Horses – Bob Coleman
- 10:50 Alfalfa for Summer Grazing – John Johns
- 11:10 Hay Heating, Hay Sweat and Spontaneous Combustion – Tom Keene
- 11:30 Pea Aphid: Where Did They Come from and will they be Back? – Lee Townsend
- 11:50 Discussion
- 12:00 Lunch
- 12:45 KFGC Business, Awards, and Silent Auction Results
- 1:00 Roundup Ready Alfalfa: Results after One Year on the Market – Ray Smith
- 1:30 How I Produced Nationally Award Winning Alfalfa Hay – Rick Alexander
- 2:00 Discussion
- 2:15 Adjourn

Registration is \$15.00 (students \$5.00) and includes admission to all conference events and trade show, refreshments, meal, proceedings and other educational materials. Our exhibit spaces are almost full and we will have a lot of very nice items in the Silent Auction.

Alfalfa and Hay Awards will be presented immediately after lunch. CCA Credits will be available. For additional information, visit our website at www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage or contact Garry Lacefield (270-365-7541, Ext. 202) or Christi Forsythe (270-365-7541, Ext. 221).

FORAGES AT KCA

My thanks to all who attended the "Forages Conference" at the Kentucky Cattlemen's Convention in Lexington January 12. The audience heard presentations on: Forages on the Web, Forage Quality, Economics of Max Q Tall Fescue and Matching Pasture to Animal Needs. Our keynote speaker was National Forage Spokesman Mr. Bill Payne. Bill did an outstanding job discussing the topic "How I establish, product, manage and market forages". Proceedings of the conference are available on our website at www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage, and then click on Conference Proceedings and Awards.

HEART OF AMERICA GRAZING CONFERENCE

Over 230 people from several states attended the Heart of America Grazing Conference in Mount Vernon, Illinois January 24 & 25. Congratulations to Conference Chairman, Dr. Justin Sexten, and all the fine folks in Illinois for organizing and hosting a great conference. The next Conference will be January 21-22, 2008 at the Holiday Inn in Columbia, Missouri.

AFGC IN PENNSYLVANIA

Plan to attend the American Forage and Grassland Council annual meeting June 24-26 in State College, PA. This years meeting will again bring together forage leaders from around the country including producers, the public sector, and industry. Additionally, leading agronomy researchers will present their latest finding as we meet jointly with the Northeast Branch of the Crop Science Society of America. Highlights include "New Developments in Forage Utilization for Livestock", "Opportunities for Forage Crops as Biofuels", and "Using Carbon Credits from Forages to Boost Farm Income." See www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage or www.afgc.org for full details.

1ST NATIONAL GRASS-FED BEEF CONFERENCE

I know this is short notice, but if you are interested in learning more about the economic benefits and production details of grass-fed beef, take a trip to Harrisburg, PA, February 28-March 2. Attend the "National Grass-Fed Beef Conference." Contact Ray at raysmith1@uky.edu for more details.

AFGC UPDATE

The American Forage and Grassland Council welcomed Michael and Dee Dee Bandy of Bandy & Associates in November to replace Dana Tucker as Executive Secretary of AFGC. Thank-you for your patience during the transition period over the last year. If you are a KFGC member you will be receiving information in the mail on the new electronic "Forage Leader", Legislative Updates, and other exciting initiatives. If you are interested in joining KFGC, then you will automatically become a member of the AFGC. Go to www.kfgc.org for a membership form.

2007 VARIETY TRIAL REPORTS AVAILABLE

The 2007 Forage Variety Reports have just been released. There are eleven separate reports covering yield and grazing tolerance of multiple varieties of all major forage species. Check with your county agent or see the Forage Website (www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage) for all eleven 2007 reports or to review reports from past years. New for this year are long-term summaries for all varieties in our trials over the last 10 years. Check out this new feature on the last page of each report.

TOP TEN AGRICULTURAL COUNTIES (2005)

Total Cash Receipts	Cash Receipt	
	Livestock	Crops
Woodford	Woodford	Christian
Fayette	Fayette	Logan
Graves	Graves	Davless
Bourbon	Bourbon	Graves
Webster	Webster	Henderson
Hickman	Hickman	Union
McLean	Jessamine	Todd
Christian	McLean	Calloway
Davless	Ohio	McLean
Logan	Muhlenberg	Simpson

Source: Kentucky Agri-News, December 2006

TOP TEN COUNTIES (2005)

Alfalfa Hay	Other Hay	Cattle & Calves	Beef Cows
Fleming	Barren	Barren	Barren
Mason	Pulaski	Warren	Pulaski
Lincoln	Madison	Pulaski	Warren
Hart	Grayson	Allen	Madison
Meade	Warren	Madison	Breckinridge
Hardin	Monroe	Bourbon	Monroe
Shelby	Breckinridge	Monroe	Bourbon
Barren	Adair	Lincoln	Allen
Mercer	Hardin	Clark	Hart
Bourbon	Allen	Adair	Lincoln

Source: Kentucky Agri-News, December 2006

TRANSPORTING HAY TO BE SUBJECT TO NEW REGULATIONS

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Under the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002, regulations regarding the transporting of hay will go into effect in December.

The new rules are designed to protect against serious threats to the food supply. The regulations relate only to transported hay that is destined to be fed to livestock entering the nation's food chain, such as beef and dairy cattle, sheep and goats.

All size farms are affected, but those who grow hay exclusively for use in their own livestock operation will see no change in the current procedures.

The regulations state that specific documentation must be kept by farmers if they sell, barter, give away or otherwise ship hay destined for use as livestock feed off the originating farm. If someone else does the hauling, then the responsibility for record keeping shifts to the transporter.

The Food and Drug Administration considers transporters to be anyone who has possession or control of an article of food for the sold purpose of transporting it by rail, road, water or air.

The transporter's records must include both the source of the hay and the recipient, the origin and destination points, the date the shipment was received and the date it was released. A description of the freight and the number of packages must be noted.

The transporter also must keep track of the route the shipment followed, any transfer points during transport, and the name of each carrier involved in the shipping process.

The FDA requires that records concerning animal food be kept for one year. The documentation may be kept in either a paper or an electronic format. Currently, a standard bill of lading provides most of this information.

When the FDA suspects that food stuffs have been tampered with and present a health threat to humans or animals in the food chain, any records must be easily accessible and made available for inspection or photocopying. Records must be produced within 24 hours from the time of notification.

Producers who grow hay for their own use and do not intend to provide it to other facilities will not, at this time, be affected by the change in the FDA's rules. (SOURCE: NHA "Hay There", December 2006)

FDA: HAY FARMERS CLEAR OF RECORDS LAW

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration says most of the nation's hay farmers are excluded from a sweeping recordkeeping regulation.

The clarification came Sept. 22 in a posting on the FDA's website dealing with implementation of a biosecurity law: the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism and Response Act.

Concern and questions abounded in the livestock industry, where some people interpreted the law by saying anyone who hauls hay off the farm needs to keep records in the required federal format.

The law is being phased in, with the largest handlers of animal feed under reporting requirements since last December, and the smallest firms due to start record keeping this Dec. 11.

Here's what FDA now says: Harvesting grain and hay fall under a farm exemption to the law. Hauling hay from place to production to another farm or ranch for feeding to livestock is also exempt, the FDA website says.

But, if you are a hay broker, or run a cube or pellet mill to produce feed for others, the FDA will insist on keeping feed records.

On top of that, if the truck that moves the hay is a commercial hauler, not a farm vehicle, the FDA wants the truck owner to initiate the record.

The most recent rule and the question-and-answer clarification are on the Web at www.fda.gov/cvm. (SOURCE: NHA "Hay There", December 2006)

HAY SAMPLING

STEPS FOR HAY SAMPLING

Identify a single "lot" of hay. A hay lot should be from a single cutting, same field and variety, and less than 200 tons. Don't mix cuttings or fields.

Choose a sharp cutting (sampling) device. Use a sharp cutting device $\frac{3}{8}$ " – $\frac{3}{4}$ " diameter. Never submit flakes or handfuls (grab samples). For a list of probes, see www.foragetesting.org.

Sample at random. Sample to represent all areas of the stack. Don't avoid or select certain bales (choose bales at random).

Take sample number of cores. Take 20 cores per sample.

Use proper technique. Sample butt ends of bales between string or wires insert probe to a dept of 12-20' and at a 90° angle. Sample middle of round bales.

Handle samples correctly. Send composite sample in a zip-lock bag. Protect samples from heat. Send sample as soon after sampling as possible.

Send required amount. (not too much – not too little) Send at least $\frac{1}{2}$ pound of sample per lot.

Never split samples without grinding. If you wish to recheck a sample, ask for your ground sample to be returned.

Choose Laboratory wisely. Choose a lab with a credible reputation. For a list of NFTA Certified Labs, see www.foragetesting.org.

Source: Adapted from National Forage Testing Association website www.foragetesting.org

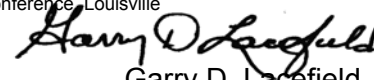
USE OF FEEDSTUFFS BY LIVESTOCK IN THE UNITED STATES

Type of Animal	Proportion of ration		Proportion of total concentrates usage (%)	Proportion of total feed usage (%)
	Concentrates	Forages		
All dairy cattle	39	61	16.6	16
All beef cattle	17	83	25.8	56.9
On feed	72	28		
Others	4	96		
Sheep & goats	9	91	0.4	1.9
Hogs	85	15	30.0	13.2
Horses & mules	28	72	2.2	2.9
All livestock & poultry	36	63	100	100

Source: Council for Agricultural Science and Technology

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEB 22	27 th Kentucky Alfalfa Conference, Cave City
MAY 30-JUN 1	Southern Pasture & Forage Crop Improvement Conference, Tallahassee, FL
JUN 24-27	American Forage & Grassland Council Annual Meeting, State College, PA
JUL 26	UK All Commodity Field Day, UKREC, Princeton
2008	
JAN 26-FEB 1	SRM/AFGC Forage Conference, Louisville


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February 2007