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Forage News [2006-08]

University of Kentucky Department of Plant and Soil Sciences

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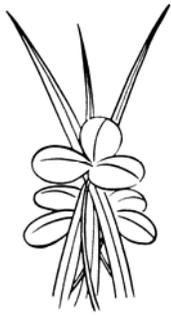


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FORAGE NEWS

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

AUGUST 2006

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

KFGC AWARDS NOMINATIONS

Nominations are now being accepted for all KFGC Awards including: Producer, Industry and Public (State and County). The awards will be presented at the 7th Kentucky Grazing Conference in Lexington on November 21, 2006. A list of previous award winners is available at www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage go directly to KFGC Award History.

If you want to nominate a deserving individual, send a one page nomination to Garry Lacefield, Research & Education Center, P.O. Box 469, Princeton, KY 42445 or by e-mail to glacefie@uky.edu. Nomination deadline is October 1, 2006.

FORAGE SPOKESMAN NOMINATIONS

The Kentucky Forage & Grassland Council is now accepting nominations for the Forage Spokesman Contest to be held during the 7th Kentucky Grazing Conference in Lexington on November 21, 2006. Mr. Bill Payne from Lincoln County is our reigning Kentucky winner and also the national AFGC Forage Spokesman. Kentucky has more National Forage Spokesman winners than any other state.

If you would like to nominate a producer who has an outstanding forage program and who would be willing to share his/her experiences, please send a one-page nomination to Dr. Ray Smith, Plant & Soil Science Dept., 105 Plant Science Bldg., 1405 Veterans Road, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40546-0312 or e-mail at raysmith1@uky.edu on or before November 1, 2006. If you have any questions, feel free to contact us.

UK ROBINSON STATION TO HOST COLLEGE OF AG FIELD DAY

On September 28, 2006, the University of Kentucky, College of Agriculture will be hosting their All Commodity Field Day at the Robinson Station located in Quicksand, Kentucky. Registration for the following morning workshops will begin at 8:30 a.m. EST at the Robinson Station. Workshops will conclude at 2:30 p.m. There will be a \$5.00 charge if you would like to purchase lunch.

- Managing Steep Terrain for Year-Round Grazing in KY
- Basic Horse Management
- Introduction to Goat Production
- Farmers Market Workshop

The afternoon program (begins at 3:30 p.m.) will consist of the following wagon tours of on-going field research and a wide variety of demonstrations and displays for adults and youth:

Agromony Tour A

- * Forages for Goat Production – *Brandon Sears*
- * Forage Variety Testing Program – *Dr. Ray Smith*

Agromony Tour B

- * Nitrogen Fertilizer Management and Options – *Dr. Greg Schwab*
- * Sweet Sorghum Variety Trial – *Dr. Morris Bitzer*

- * Seeded Bermudagrass Varieties for Kentucky Livestock Production – *Dr. David Ditsch*

Horticulture Tour A

- * Pumpkins, Gourds and Fall Decorations – *Dr. R. Terry Jones*
- * Fall Fresh Market Staked Tomato Cultivar Trial – *Dr. R. Terry Jones*
- * Sweet Potato Cultivar Trial – *Darrell Slone*
- * Hydrangeas and Other Cut and Dried Flowers – *Sharon Bale*
- * Small Fruit Cultivars for Kentucky: Speaker – *Dr. John Strang*

Horticulture Tour B

- * Herb Garden, Decorative Dried Grains and Season Extension High Tunnel – *Amanda F. Sears*
- * Useful Horticultural Equipment – *Phil Hays*
- * Mini Straw Bales / Fodder Shocks – *Bonnie Sigmon*
- * Farmers Market Booth Display – *Boyd County Master Gardeners*

Demonstrations

- * Sweet Sorghum Production
- * Antique Farm Equipment Demonstration
- * Pulling Tractors
- * Kentucky Pride Quilt and Kitchen Show
- * Research/Field Equipment Demonstration
- * Butter Churning
- * Daisy the Cow
- * Outdoor Cooking
- * Corn shuck flowers
- * Tin can ice cream
- * Food preservation
- * Porch weave foot stools
- * Native animal skins
- * Bird Houses
- * Entomology
- * Wood Magic
- * Variety Show

For more information please check out the Robinson Station website at: www.ca.uky.edu/robinsonstation or contact Dr. David Ditsch at 606-666-2438 Ext. 231. (SOURCE: David Ditsch, UK Robinson Station)

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Forage Testing Program

The Kentucky Department of Agriculture offers a forage testing service which provides nutritional value information. A KDA staff member will take sample(s) of hay and/or haylage at the farm and analyze them in the KDA Forage Laboratory located in Frankfort. Tested forages can mean higher profit, whether feeding cattle, horses, goats, sheep or other livestock. By knowing the nutritional value, you can minimize your cost and maximize your production.

Forage testing helps to determine fair market value and an equitable price. By keeping a forage journal, testing helps in comparing forage quality year-to-year. The Department charges a \$10 fee per lot (same field same cutting) for the service. The producer receives an analysis of the forage's nutritional value and an "Interpreting Forage Quality Report" guide.

The Kentucky Department of Agriculture's Forage Testing Program follows standards outlined by the National Forage Testing Association (NFTA). Your local Extension Agent can assist you with your winter feed ration.

Livestock farmers who need hay can find it right here in Kentucky. Listings of farms with hay for sale can be found on the Hay and Forage Program page of the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's Web site, www.kyagr.com.

"Last summer's drought has affected pastures and hay crops through much of the Commonwealth, but farmers in some parts of the state have been able to make a hay crop," Agriculture Commissioner Richie Farmer said. "The Hay and Forage Program page enables buyers and sellers to find each other."

If the hay is to be sold, the staff will make a visual evaluation of the forage to use in the listing on the Hay Sales Directory page. Listings on the Hay Sales Directory page brings the consumer and producer together, analysis can be sorted by any combination of county, relative feed value (RFV), bale size and type of hay. Each listing describes a lot's type, cutting date, cutting number, bale size and weight, color, odor, RFV and other characteristics. Some listings contain digital images of the forage.

There are four people who work with the Forage Testing Program; Kimberly Field and Bryn Fallis work the lab in Frankfort, Jim Wade covers the middle western area and Gary Green covers the far western part of the state (see region listing below).

The Frankfort lab and Gary Green take appointments for the Forage Testing Van. The Forage Testing Van is outfitted and used for educational purposes; the "Van" can be booked for hay contests, association meetings, fairs, etc.

We work closely with Dr. Garry Lacefield, Extension Forage Specialist; Dr. Ray Smith, Extension Forage Specialist; and Tom Keene, Hay Marketing Specialist with the University of Kentucky. There is a great forage website sponsored by the University of Kentucky that contains forage information, publications and links; their website is www.uky.edu/Aq/Forages.

For more information on the Forage Testing Program, call the toll-free Hay Hotline 1-800-248-4628, or contact Kimberly Field by e-mail at kimberly.field@ky.gov.

Following is a list of counties per region:

Gary Green (270) 779-4930		Jim Wade (270) 776-2172		All other counties, please contact the hay lab at 800-248-4628
Henderson	McLean	Meade	Hardin	
Muhlenberg	Union	Larue	Green	
Webster	Hopkins	Hart	Metcalf	
Christian	Crittenden	Monroe	Breckinridge	
Caldwell	Trigg	Grayson	Edmonson	
Lyon	Livingston	Allen	Warren	
McCracken	Marshall	Hancock	Ohio	
Calloway	Graves	Daviess	Todd	
Ballard	Carlisle	Logan	Butler	
Hickman	Fulton	Barren	Simpson	

(SOURCE: Kimberly Field, Kentucky Department of Agriculture, Forage Testing Program)

MORE HAY.....

This time last year the entire state of Kentucky was beginning to feel the effects of very droughty conditions. These dry conditions continued right on through until very late in the year. As a matter of fact, moisture levels were so low that most producers were unable to make a second cutting of grass type hays. Even alfalfa struggled to make any appreciable amount of hay past first cutting.

Oh, what a difference a year makes....although we were below normal rainfall for May and June, July has started off with some localized areas of significant rainfall. If these timely rains continue it will be very likely that a good second cutting of grass hay will be available this year.

This hay is usually high in quality and can be very soft and extremely palatable for livestock if made at the right stage of maturity. It is almost all leafy material with just a few seed heads and stalks in the crop. This type hay, if baled correctly, can make some extremely nice hay for the horse market. Good Luck!!! (Tom Keene, UK Hay Marketing Specialist)

GUIDELINES FOR SUCCESSFUL FORAGE ESTABLISHMENT

Follow the guidelines below to increase your chances of success in establishing forage crops. Also refer to establishment publications on the forage website www.uky.edu/Aq/Forage.

1. Apply lime and fertilizer

Make sure to soil test first and apply lime, phosphorus, potassium, and other nutrients as recommended. Although soil testing takes some effort, it is more important now than ever with the increased cost of fertilizer. Why apply more than you need?

2. Use high-quality seed of an improved variety

Use a variety that is a proven performer in Kentucky. High-quality, certified seed has a blue tag to guarantee good germination, little or no weed seed, and genetic purity.

3. Plant enough seed at the right time

Saving a few dollars at seeding time often means that you pay over and over again with lower yields and the increased weed pressure caused by a thin stand. Use the recommended seeding rates and optimum dates shown below or refer to UK publications for other forage crops.

Species	Rate lb/acre (pure stand)	Rate lb/acre (mixtures)	Optimum date
Tall fescue	15-25	10-15	8/15-9/15
Orchardgrass	15-20	5-10	8/15-9/15
Alfalfa	15-20	15	4/1-5/1, 8/15-9/1
Red Clover	10-12	6-8	3/15-4/15, Feb. for frost seeding
White Clover	---	1-2	Same as red clover

4. Use the best seeding method

In general, planting into a conventionally tilled seedbed is the most effective establishment method. It is essential that forage grasses and legumes are planted no deeper than 1/4" to 1/2". Planting too deep is one of the most common reasons for stand failure. A fine, firm seedbed is essential to ensure that there is good soil to seed contact and that seed is not planted too deep. No-till seeding is often preferred on sloping land, works well into crop stubble or into stands killed with glyphosate. Remember, surface broadcast or frost seeding is only recommended for red and white clover seeded during February onto a closely grazed or clipped sod.

5. Control competition

Many seedlings fail because of competition from weeds. Weeds are less an issue with fall seeding, since spring seeded stands are forced to compete with aggressive summer annual weeds. Control weeds by mowing or flash grazing, and remember to follow UK or label recommendations closely when using herbicides.

6. Allow immature seedlings to become established before grazing

Overgrazing newly seeded areas is one of the major causes of seeding failures. A few brief grazings can be tolerated. Remember that newly seeded stands often require 12 or more months to develop a fully established sod.

Follow the guidelines listed above, refer to the establishment publications listed on the forage website www.uky.edu/Aq/Forage, and receive timely rains and you can enjoy high yielding, high quality pasture and hay stands for many years to come.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- SEP 12 KFGC Field Day, Dobbs Shady Meadow Farm, Campbell County
- SEP 28 UK College of Ag Field Day, Robinson Station
- NOV 21 Kentucky Grazing Conference, Lexington
- DEC 10-13 Third National Conference on Grazing Lands, St. Louis, MO
- 2007**
- JAN 11-13 KCA Annual Convention & Trade Show, Lexington
- JAN 24-25 Heart of America Grazing Conference, Mt. Vernon, IL
- FEB 22 27th Kentucky Alfalfa Conference, Cave City



Garry D. Lacefield
Extension Forage Specialist
August 2006