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Forage News [2002-07]

University of Kentucky Department of Plant and Soil Sciences

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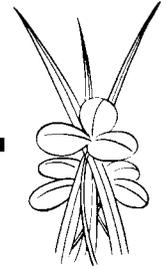
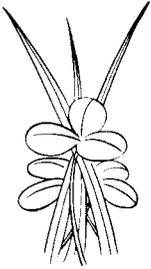
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FORAGE NEWS



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July 2002

Garry D. Lacefield and Jimmy C. Henning, Extension Forage Specialists ! Christi Forsythe, Secretary

FORAGE SURVEY

Our THANKS to all County Extension Agents for Agriculture who have already completed the on-line Forage Survey. We know it is requiring some time and greatly appreciate each of you for this valuable contribution to Kentucky Forages. For those who have not finished, we ask that you continue to gather the information and complete the survey in the next few weeks. THANKS AGAIN for your help.

U.K. ALL COMMODITY FIELD DAY - JULY 18

The University of Kentucky All Commodity Field Day is just days away. This year's program promises to be bigger and better with 16 different tours running continuously throughout the day. Several events around the big tent will be on a "visit at your leisure" basis including IPM's Butterfly/Herb Garden, Incredible Insects, Display of Older Model Tractors and Equipment, and a Youth Activities tent. Family and Consumer Science Activities will be in the air conditioned U.K. Research and Education Center. There will be nearly sixty Displays and Exhibits in the "big tent" and in the U.K. Research & Education Center. Registration will begin at 7:30 with a welcome and program at 8:00. Tours will start at 8:30 and run continuously throughout the day. Lunch can be purchased on-site from various Kentucky producer organizations.

SEE YOU JULY 18!

FARM VISITS

Each year we visit many farms across Kentucky. Reason's for visiting include: field days, demonstrations, problem solving, research plots, and farm tours. Occasionally we get an invitation to visit a farm to see very successful, uniquely different forage

systems. These are always enjoyable and we are continually amazed at "Kentucky farmer ingenuity and creativity." We list the above to set the stage for a unique farm visit we made last month. Chris Clark, County Extension Agent in Hart County had invited us to visit the Riders Mill Farm in Hart County near Upton, Kentucky. The farm is owned and operated by Randy and John Seymour. We were familiar with Randy since he is the author of an excellent book "Wildflowers of the Mammoth Cave National Park." Our visit was a most enjoyable, educational fun time. The Seymour's have been growing warm season native grasses for seed for over six years. They are currently producing, big and little bluestem, switchgrass, eastern gamagrass, and indiagrass. They have designed and built a most efficient and effective seed cleaning and processing plant and designed their own seed harvesting equipment. We were most impressed with the seed quality from their operation. We visited many seed fields and were very impressed with their stands. They have conducted a lot of on-farm trials and are doing a great job in establishing and managing these grasses. They are selecting their own "ecotypes" for forage and seed production in Kentucky. Using their establishing techniques, they have been able to get stands established rapidly and keep stands productive. In addition to learning a lot about native warm season grasses, we were treated to a wonderful lunch and some good old fashioned Southern Hospitality and a most enjoyable visit.

JASON SANDEFUR IS KENTUCKY FORAGE SPOKESPERSON

Jason Sandefur, farm manager at the Berle Clay farm in Bourbon County, will be the 2002 Kentucky Forage Spokesperson at the annual meeting of the American Forage and Grassland Council in

Minneapolis on July 16. He will represent Kentucky in the National Forage Spokesperson Contest. Jason Sandefur is an animal science graduate of the University of Kentucky. The 1200 acre farm has been in the Berle Clay family since 1800 and produces burley tobacco, beef cattle, and alfalfa. The farm has transitioned from cash grain in the 80's and early 90's to alfalfa hay and haylage. This high quality forage supplies the nutrition for the cattle enterprise which has replaced the grain as income. Congratulations to Jason and good luck in Minneapolis.

KFGC STATE FORAGE FIELD DAY IS SEPT 5 AT NEW UK BEEF RESEARCH FARM

Please set aside Thursday, September 5 for the state KFGC forage field day. This year, the University of Kentucky is hosting the field day at the new UKARC - University of Kentucky Animal Research Center and will specifically highlight the beef-forage grazing research underway there. Registration will begin at 4:30 PM Eastern Time with tours beginning promptly at 5PM. More details to follow, but you will not want to miss this exciting close up look at this important research.

IMPORTANT: To comply with College of Agriculture biosecurity requirements, to tour the farm, you must have not traveled outside of the US in the 7 days prior to the field day. We know that you will want to help us comply with this policy.

THIRD EDITION OF SOUTHERN FORAGES

The book *Southern Forages* was first introduced in 1991 and has since gained wide recognition as a practical and reliable source of information on modern forage crop management. The Third Edition of *Southern Forages*, released in May, 2002, is an even more valuable book, with extensive chapter revisions, topic updates, and other improvements.

Published jointly by the Potash & Phosphate Institute (PPI) and the Forage for Agronomic Research (FAR), the Third Edition of *Southern Forages* includes new chapters on "Forage Ecology" and "Minimizing Stored Feed Requirements," plus an expanded chapter on grazing management. Fifteen additional pages of information have been added to the popular appendix section. Other improvements include color drawings of forage seed and new diagrams in various chapters.

Authors of the book are Dr. Don Ball, Extension Agronomist/Alumni Professor, Auburn University; Dr. Carl Hoveland, Terrell Distinguished Professor, University of Georgia; and Dr. Garry Lacefield, Extension Agronomist/ Professor, University of Kentucky. All are former presidents of the American Forage and Grassland Council and have many years of experience working with forage/ livestock production.

Southern Forages is written for a wide range of

audiences. It is used by livestock producers, by seed, equipment and fertilizer dealers, by Extension and conservation workers, and by teachers as a text for students learning about forages. More than 50 colleges and universities have included the book as a text or resource in forage classes.

While the content is focused on forages for the southern U.S., many of the principles and species of plants discussed can be adapted to other regions. Chapters discuss forage systems for beef, dairy, horses, sheep, goats, and other types of livestock. Wildlife, soil conservation, and environmental benefits of forages are also emphasized.

The Third Edition of *Southern Forages* is a 6 x 9-inch paperback book containing 332 pages. It features more than 150 color photos, including over 60 close-up images of grasses and legumes. Discussions of management and utilization, forage adaptation zones, seasonal growth curves, seeding rates, and nutrient content of fertilizer materials are example of subject matter helpful to many readers.

Southern Forages is priced at US\$30.00 per copy, plus shipping and handling. To order one book for delivery in the U.S., send a check payable to "Potash & Phosphate Institute" for \$34.00 to: 655 Engineering Drive, Suite 110, Norcross, GA 30092-2837. To inquire about multiple book or international orders, phone (770) 825-8082 or 825-8084; fax (770) 448-0439; e-mail: circulation@ppi-far.org; or order online at www.ppi-ppic.org. It is also available through the Kentucky Forage & Grassland Council and at many University Book Stores. (SOURCE: PPI, Norcross, GA, News Release, June 1, 2002)

UPCOMING EVENTS

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| JUL 14-16 | American Forage & Grassland Conference, Minnesota |
| JUL 18 | UK All Commodity Field Day, Princeton |
| SEPT 5 | KFGC Forage Field Day, Lexington |
| OCT 15-16 | Fall Grazing School, Owensboro |
| NOV 26 | 3 rd Kentucky Grazing Conference, Bowling Green |
| DEC 12 | Forages Commodity Conference at Farm Bureau Convention, Louisville |
| 2003 | |
| JAN 10 | Forages Conference at Kentucky Cattleman Convention, Bowling Green |
| JAN 23 | Heart of America Grazing Conference, Hannibal, Missouri |
| FEB 20 | 23 rd Kentucky Alfalfa Conference, Cave City |
| APR 22-23 | Kentucky Grazing School, Bowling Green |
| NOV 6-7 | Fall Grazing School, Mayfield |

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