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Forage News [2002-06]

University of Kentucky Department of Plant and Soil Sciences

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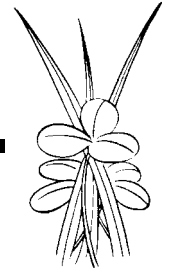
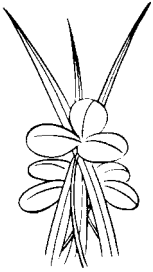
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FORAGE NEWS



In this month's issue:

! Mare Reproductive Loss Syndrome Update ! Bermudagrass Test in West Kentucky ! Minnesota to Host Forage Conference ! Date Set for "Heart of America Grazing Conference" ! Hay Probe Listing ! Upcoming Events

June 2002

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

MARE REPRODUCTIVE LOSS SYNDROME UPDATE

Early results from an ongoing research project of the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture show elevated levels of foal loss in mares exposed to both the eastern tent caterpillar (ETC) and the caterpillar's waste, which is called frass.

The experiment involved 29 pregnant mares which were separated into three experimental treatment groups. In the first group mares were exposed for 6 hours each day to increasingly high levels of ETC and their frass. In the second group mares were exposed only to the insect's frass. In the third group, called the control group, mares were handled identically to the experimental treatments but received as little exposure to ETC larvae or frass as possible. Mares were on pasture only, not hay.

In the first treatment with ETC and frass, 6 of 10 mares have lost their foals. In the second treatment with only frass, 6 of 9 have lost foals. In the control group receiving reduced exposure to ETC or frass, 3 of 10 mares have lost their foals.

Results of examination of a fetus from a mare in the frass experimental group are consistent with those associated with early fetal losses suffered in 2001.

Researchers stress that the project is not yet finished, and the results do not show a statistically significant result. Other possible causes for fetal losses in this experiment are also being investigated. It should also be noted that mares in this project were exposed to higher populations of ETC than would occur naturally.

Although these results apply only to this project, UK continues to recommend that exposure of pregnant mares to eastern tent caterpillars and caterpillar frass be limited as advised in the MRLS advisory of April 26, 2002. The investigation into the cause or causes of MRLS continues.

Observations by practicing veterinarians and farm managers reveal that some farms have experienced a recurrence of MRLS in 2002, but in overall numbers much lower than 2001. In addition many farms are unaffected. All observations so far still implicate the eastern tent caterpillar as the primary cause or common factor in causing MRLS.

BERMUDAGRASS TEST IN WEST KENTUCKY

Results of a bermudagrass variety test started at Princeton in 1998 were recently released. Five released varieties and four experimentals were started in small plots using sprigs. The following table shows the last two years of yield data and a stand evaluation of the five best performing varieties. Two varieties, Russell and Midland, had lower yields and poor stands and were not included in the results. Also, two experimentals have not been released as varieties and are not included in the results.

Performance of Bermudagrass Cultivars			
Cultivar	Yields (T/A)		Stands* (Oct. 2001)
	2000	2001	
Tifton 44	8.4	8.4	Excellent
Quickstand	7.0	7.8	Excellent
Ozarka	7.7	9.2	Very Good
Midland 99	6.9	8.8	Very Good
Hardie	6.6	8.0	Fair

*Visual rating of percent ground cover from Poor <80% to Excellent 95-100%.

Two of the experimentals have been released as varieties and performed very well in the test. Midland 99 was released in 1999 and Ozarka has just been released. A limited supply of Midland 99 sprigs are available this year. It will be another year or two before Ozarka sprigs will be available to farmers. (Monroe Rasnake)

MINNESOTA TO HOST FORAGE CONFERENCE

The American Forage and Grassland Conference will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota July 14-17. The program committee has put together an outstanding

program featuring leading speakers, exhibits, hay show, and tours. Several from Kentucky will be involved including: Russell Hackley, AFGC National Forage Spokesman; Jason Sandefur, speaker, Forage Spokesman Contest; Ken Johnson and Tom Keene, AFGC Board Members; Jimmy Henning and Monroe Rasnake, Affiliate Representatives; Bill Talley, Tom Keene, and Garry Lacefield, Forage and Grassland Foundation board members; along with other speakers, hay contest participants and committee members.

DATE SET FOR "HEART OF AMERICA GRAZING CONFERENCE"

The program committee has set the date for the second "Heart of America Grazing Conference". This Conference is sponsored by (Kentucky, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio). The first Conference was held in Southern Illinois and attracted over 350 people. The second Conference has been set for January 23, 2003 and will be held at the Hannibal Inn in Hannibal, Missouri. More details as information on the program is available.

HAY PROBE LISTING

Colorado Hay Probe. Contact: UDY Corp., Phone: (970) 482-2060. www.udycorp.com

Description: "PUSH TYPE" Aluminum alloy barrel, 5/8" diameter X 18" long, with stainless steel angled tip (>45 degrees, resharpenable). Collection chamber holds 10-15 cores. \$135 each +\$15 S&H. Mastercard & Visa.

Forageurs Hay Probe. Contact: Forageurs Corp. PO Box 564 Lakeville, MN 55044. Phone (952) 469-2596.

Description: "DRILL TYPE" Stainless steel probe barrel, either 14" (\$140) or 24" (\$150) long, 3/4" outside diameter. Hardened steel cutting tip, 0.60" cutting diameter. Steel canister ring with hexagonal steel shaft, fits hand brace or drill. Canister: 100 cu. inches, holds 20-30 cores, 4" PVC body with clear plexiglass top.

Frontier Mills 'Yankton' Hay Probe. Contact: Frontier Mills, Inc., 2002 South Dakota Highway 314, Yankton, SD 57078. Phone (605) 665-2441.

Description: "DRILL TYPE" 30" long X 1" inside diameter conduit pipe shaft with round 7" long X 4" diameter canister. External auger pulls the long probe into the bale. Different ends allow use as hand brace or with drill. Comes with replaceable tip and wooden dowel for cleaning (\$108).

Hay Chec Hay Sampler. Contact: A.M. Hodge Products, Inc. PO Box 202005, San Diego, CA 92120. Phone (619) 444-3147.

Description: "PUSH TYPE" This is a 12" long hand probe with an internal diameter of 7/16 inch with a well-built stainless steel body and a clear plastic catch sample collection jar, and two foam-padded handles. Probe has a sample clearing stick. The body is weighted for helping to push into bales. This is one of the shortest of the hay probes.

HMC Hay Probe. Contact: Hart Machine Co., 1216 SW Hart St., Madras, OR. 97741. Phone: (541)475-3107.

Description: "DRILL TYPE" Stainless steel barrels 12" (\$185), 18"(\$195), 24"(\$205), or 30" (\$215) long X 3/4"outside diameter and 5/8" inside diameter. Hardened smooth re-sharpenable tip, 1/2" diameter. Aluminum and steel collection canister holds 25-30 12" cores. Hub for brace or drill.

Penn State Probe. Contact: Nasco Corporation, 4825 Stoddard Rd., Modesto, CA. 95356-9318. Phone: 1-800-558-9595. Other retailers also may carry this probe.

Description: "DRILL TYPE" Stainless steel 1 1/8" diameter X 18" long. Available with 3/8" round shank adapter for use with electric or breast drill (\$94.65) or square shank for use with hand brace (\$101.55). Replaceable cutting tip. Comes with dowel plunger to remove sample.

Sierra Hay Probe. Contact: Sierra Testing Service, 9450 E. Collier Rd., Acampo, CA 95220. Phone (209-333-3337)

Description: "PUSH TYPE" golf club type probe. This is a 16 1/2" stainless steel golf club shaft that cuts a 1/2" core. The shaft has a 7 1/2" x 1 7/8" tube handle attached at 90o at the end of the golf club shaft. The probe is self-unloading and provides for easy continuous sampling of baled hay. The probe has a clean out rod that aids in cleaning out the probe when the sample is completed. The rod also protects the cutting edge during storage. Approximate price: \$37.00.

Star Forage Probes. Contact: Star Quality Samplers, 5719-114A Street, Edmonton, AB, Canada, T6H 3MB. Phone (780) 434-3367.

Description: "PUSH TYPE" Star Multi-Forage Sampler: Stainless steel 5/8" diameter probe barrel, 18" long. 3" (\$145) or 4" (\$160) diameter PVC canister is the handle used to push probe, with a plastic bag attachment. Star Uni-Forage Sampler: Stainless steel 1 1/8" diameter X 18" long (\$150). Spring clip fastens the handle to the sampler and core poured out. Star Standard Cutting Tip (\$50) fits Uni-Forage Sampler and is a replacement for most wood brace samplers (eg. the Penn State sampler).

Stearns DHIA Hay Probe. Contact: Stearns DHIA Laboratories 825 12th St. So., P O Box 227, Sauk Centre, MN 56378-0227 320.352.2028 800.369.2697 Email: stearnsdhalab@stearnsdhalab.com

Description: "PUSH TYPE" Stainless Steel 'T' Shaped Probe. This is a 1" outside diameter stainless steel tube cut at a 45 degree angle from the shaft. The shaft is 13" long, with another tube handle shaft attached at the end at a 90 degree angle. See their [website](http://www.stearnsdhalab.com): for details. Price: \$35.00 + 5.00 Shipping & Handling.

(SOURCE: Dr. Mike Collins from the website <http://haytesting.org> (this is the National Forage Testing Association website once there, click on "Useful Links")

UPCOMING EVENTS

JUL 14-16	American Forage & Grassland Conference, Minnesota
JUL 18	UK All Commodity Field Day, Princeton
OCT 15-16	Fall Grazing School, Owensboro
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

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Extension Forage Specialists
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