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Forage News [2002-02]

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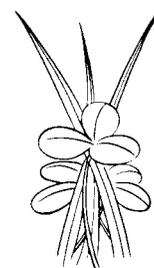
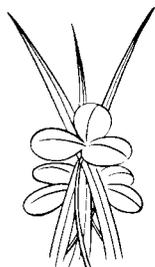
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FORAGE NEWS



In this month's issue:

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Performance of Bermudagrass Cultivars ! Ryegrass ! Grazing Conference: Big
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February 2002

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

KENTUCKY ALFALFA CONFERENCE:

JUST DAYS AWAY

It's hard to believe that in just a few days we will be in Cave City for our 22nd Kentucky Alfalfa Conference - MY HOW TIME FLIES. We have a great program this year with Commissioner Billy Ray Smith as our keynote speaker. In addition, we will have a "full house" of exhibitors and our Silent Auction will be expanded.

Look forward to seeing each of you at the "remodeled" Cave City Convention Center on February 21. Following is the program :

- 8:00 Registration, visit exhibits, silent auction
- 9:00 Welcome
- 9:15 Advances in Alfalfa Breeding – What will the Alfalfa Variety of the Future smell, taste, look, and act like? -- Dr. Jimmy Henning
- 9:30 Managing Alfalfa for Yield-Quality-Persistence -- Dr. Garry Lacefield
- 9:45 Grazing Alfalfa on the WKU Farm -- Dr. Byron Sleugh
- 10:00 Break, visit exhibits, silent auction
- 10:20 Designing a Grazing System for Alfalfa -- Mr. Ken Johnson
- 10:40 Innovating Loading and Stacking Systems for Custom Hay Sales -- Mr. Tom Keene
- 11:00 Marketing Kentucky Hay -- Commissioner Billy Ray Smith
- 11:45 Presentation of Hay Awards
- 12:00 Lunch, visit exhibits, silent auction
Alfalfa Awards
- 1:00 Silent Auction results
- 1:15 Advances in Hay Harvest Equipment -- Dr. Mike Collins
- 2:00 Hot Topics Discussion: Speakers - University and Industry representatives
Roundup Ready Alfalfa; Super Conditioners; Seed Coatings; Grazing Tolerance; AM-PM Cutting; Leafhopper Resistance
- 2:30 Adjourn

SPRING GRAZING SCHOOL IS APRIL

17-18 IN STANFORD

The spring 2002 Grazing School is to be held on April 17-18 in Stanford at the Lincoln County Extension Office. Your registration fee of \$100.00 includes all materials, grazing manual, breaks, and selected meals. Registration fee must be paid to hold a place in the grazing school. Enrollment in this grazing school is limited to the first 45 who register. The school is open to all.

To reserve your space in the school, call Ken Johnson at 270 487 6589 x3. Your check holds your registration. Make checks payable to: **Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council** and send to: **Ken Johnson, NRCS, 1410 N. Main, Tompkinsville, KY 42167.**

TESTING OF HAYLAGE BY KENTUCKY

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The mobile and stationary forage labs of the Kentucky Department of Agriculture can now test haylage made from forage crops, specifically round bale haylage as well as chopped material. They cannot do corn silage. The forage crops they are able to test include the small grains, along with alfalfa, clover, and soybeans. They hope to have their mixed equation verified soon. They have gone through an extensive verification process where their NIR equations have been corrected with actual 'wet chemistry' data, and will continue to do test samples to ensure future accuracy. As Dr. Johns and Dr. Amaral-Phillips have stated, if you need mineral analysis or other assays other than crude protein, fiber, energy, and RFV, you need to use the recommended commercial labs such as Dairy One. This service will be run similar to that for testing hay, with a fee of \$10 per lot of haylage tested. Due to the slowness of the drying process, please allow more lead time on-site if several samples are to be tested as part of an educational event. For more information, please call Allen Johnson at the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, 1 800 248 4628.

PERFORMANCE OF BERMUDAGRASS CULTIVARS AT PRINCETON, KY

Nine bermudagrass cultivars were established from sprigs in May, 1998 at the Research and Education Center at Princeton, Kentucky. In 2000 and 2001, nitrogen was applied at 300 pounds per acre in three applications of 100 pounds each. The plots were harvested four times with yields recorded as tons per acre at 12.5 percent moisture. Some cultivars suffered injury in 2000-01 winter which is illustrated by the stand ratings shown in the table. All cultivars had excellent stands in 2000.

Cultivar	Yield (T/A)		Stand (10/01/01)
	2000	2001	
Midland	5.9 c*	6.4 bc	Poor
Hardie	6.6 bc	8.0 ab	Fair
Quickstand	7.0 abc	7.8 abc	Excellent
Tifton 44	8.4 a	8.4 ab	Excellent
Russell	5.9 c	5.8 c	Poor
74 x 21-6	6.9 abc	8.8 a	Very Good
74 x 12-6	7.7 ab	9.2 a	Very Good
19 x 16	6.4 bc	7.8 abc	Good
16 x 66	6.6 bc	7.9 abc	Good

*Yields within years followed by the same letter are not significantly different (% = 0.05).

(Source: Dr. Monroe Rasnake, University of Kentucky)

RYEGRASS: WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Annual Ryegrass, Italian Ryegrass, Common Ryegrass, and Westerwolds - Confused by all the names, the following should shed some light on the topic:

Annual ryegrass has several common names throughout the world, but for the most part has been called "Italian" ryegrass or "common annual" ryegrass. In Texas, the name "Gulf" or even "Gulf rye" is often used and misused by producers to denote Italian annual ryegrass. These names originated from the variety 'Gulf', the first improved variety which was released by the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station in 1958 and has remained popular for the past 37 years. Gulf ryegrass is a direct increase of "La Estanzuela 284", an improved variety from Uruguay. The seed were introduced in 1950, by the Crops Research Division, ARS, USDA, as P.I. 193145. Gulf was first tested in 1952 by the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station and because of its consistent superiority for yield and crown rust (*Puccinia coronata*) resistance, it was later released. In some parts of the world, ryegrass may be called "Westerwold" ryegrass. This is from a variety or varieties which originated in the Westerwolde area Province of Groningen, Netherlands. Haan reported that the Westerwold types were actually Italian ryegrass which had been selected for earliness. There is no indication that the Westerwold ryegrass differs botanically from Italian (annual) ryegrass. The first reported annual ryegrass which was cultivated was grown in northern Italy. It was reported in France in 1818 and in Switzerland in 1820. Piper indicates it was imported to England in 1831; however, it may have been present as a weed prior to that date. The actual date annual ryegrass was

imported into the USA is not known. Ryegrass was brought to America in early colonial days and has become an important grass. Annual, common (variety not stated) ryegrass was successfully grown in the Gulf Coast region of the US in the 1940's and 1950's. However, crown rust was often a serious disease problem and reduced forage yields and quality. Plant breeding efforts in Texas, Mississippi, and Florida resulted in the release of crown rust resistant varieties. Texas released 'Gulf', and Mississippi released 'Magnolia' ryegrass. Both varieties have remained moderately resistant to crown rust and are still available today. (Source: Adapted from L.R. Nelson, Ryegrass Breeder, TAES, in Annual Ryegrass, Symposium on Annual Ryegrass MP1770, Tyler, Texas, 1995)

GRAZING CONFERENCE: BIG SUCCESS

The Heart of America Grazing Conference held January 24 at Rend Lake College in Illinois was a huge success with over 325 participants from several states. We extend congratulations to Conference Chairman Ed Ballard and his entire committee for a job well done. The 2nd Heart of America Conference will be held in Missouri in 2003. Location and date to be decided. We will keep you informed as information becomes available.

FORAGE VARIETY REPORTS IN PRINT, ON WEB

Several forage variety reports are already in print and available or will be shortly. Those available now in print include the reports for alfalfa, red clover, tall fescue, orchardgrass, timothy, annual and perennial ryegrass, and summer annual grasses. The grazing tolerance reports for alfalfa and cool season grasses are available on the UK web site and should shortly be in print as well. The url for the UK Research Report is:

www.ca.uky.edu/agc/pubs/respubs.htm.

Scroll down until you reach the progress reports (PR series). The forage reports are from PR 453 to 462. New this year is a report on the grazing tolerance of cool season grass varieties to horses (PR 462). Also coming soon is a new report on the performance of native warm season grass varieties.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEB 21	XXII Kentucky Alfalfa Conference, Cave City
MAR 5	Central Kentucky Alfalfa Conference, Winchester
APR 17-18	Spring Grazing School, Lincoln County
JUL 14-16	American Forage & Grassland Conference, Minnesota
JUL 18	UK All Commodity Field Day, Princeton

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