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Forage News [2001-09]

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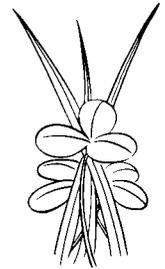
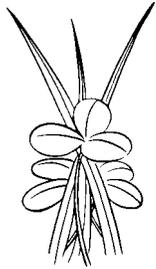
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FORAGE NEWS



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September 2001

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

SIGN-UP NOW FOR THE

KENTUCKY GRAZING SCHOOL

The Kentucky Grazing School will offer a shorter program at a lower cost. The shorter program will only require participants to spend one night away from home if they do not live in driving distance of Princeton. The School organizers have "streamlined" the program to be more efficient in time management that will offer the same information and quality program while reducing the length by one-half day. Cost for the two-day school has been reduced to \$100.00 and includes all meals, breaks and refreshments, a Grazing School notebook, copy of Southern Forages and the Forage Crop Pocket Guide, along with many publications and handouts. The school will feature a combination of classroom and field activities which include fence and water construction, pasture assessment, weed identification, fencing demonstration, stocking rates and densities, and paddock design and layout. The school will be held October 16 and 17 at the University of Kentucky Research & Education Center in Princeton. To register or for more information, contact: Dr. Jimmy Henning, 859-257-3144, e-mail jhenning@ca.uky.edu or Ken Johnson, 270-487-6589, e-mail kjohnson@ky.nrcs.usda.gov.

NOVEL ENDOPHYTE VARIETIES

There have been some rumors circulating concerning several new novel endophyte tall fescue varieties available for late-summer seedings. There is certainly a lot of work in this area and we do indeed expect announcements of new novel endophyte tall fescue varieties in the future; however, at present there is only one commercially available variety of novel endophyte tall fescue for seeding this year. The variety that is available is the Max Q variety distributed by Pennington Seed.

KFGC AWARD NOMINATIONS

DEADLINE OCTOBER 15

Each year the Kentucky Forage & Grassland Council recognizes excellence in the forage industry with four prestigious awards. Awards are presented to one representative each from the following sectors: 1) Producer, 2) Industry, 3) Public (State) and 4) Public (County). This year the awards will be presented during lunch of the Kentucky Forage Council's sponsored Grazing Conference which will be in Lexington November 29. If you would like to nominate some deserving individual for any of the above awards, please send nominations consisting of name, address and a one page or less written summary of the nominee's accomplishments to KFGC President, Mr. Bill Talley. Bill can be reached by e-mail at btalley@seedbiotics.net or at 10100 S. Jefferson St., Princeton, KY 42445. Thanks for your help in identifying worthy recipients of these prestigious awards. Deadline for receiving nominations is October 15, 2001.

ROUNDUP READY ALFALFA, WHEN?

We have had several questions inquiring about the availability of Roundup Ready Alfalfa. Roundup Ready Alfalfa has been developed and is being tested; however, there are no varieties available at present. In fact, the word we get is that the first varieties will not be commercially available until 2004.

SEEDING COOL SEASON GRASSES

Although some areas of the state are still dry, I feel we are in the best "moisture" situation we have been in in several years for seeding cool season grasses. Check variety reports for performance of tall fescue, orchardgrass, timothy, and ryegrass. Use a seeding method that provides for uniform rate and optimum depth (1/4 - 1/2). Any seeding technique can be successful if the end result is uniform placement of seed at the right rate and depth and good seed-soil contact.

STOCKPILING

Two key factors for successful stockpiling of tall

fescue or Kentucky bluegrass are moisture and nitrogen. At present, we are in "better than normal moisture" situations in several areas. Nitrogen should be applied before mid-September for most efficient growth response.

KENTUCKY GRAZING CONFERENCE

With the success of the Grazing Conference held this past year in Bowling Green, the organizing committee has put together an outstanding program for November 29 in Lexington. The Conference will feature leading speakers from throughout Kentucky covering practical aspects of grazing. In addition, we are fortunate to have Mr. R. L. Dalrymple from Oklahoma, who is one of the leading grazing authorities in the USA, along with Dr. Gary Bates, Extension Forage Specialist from the University of Tennessee as our keynote speakers.

The conference will be held at the Fayette County Extension Office with registration beginning at 8:00 a.m. The registration fee will be a nominal \$15.00 and will cover refreshments, meal, proceedings and a number of grazing-related publications. Commercial and educational exhibits will be set up and staffed covering services and supplies related to grazing.

Additional information can be obtained by contacting Dr. Jimmy Henning, 859-257-3144, e-mail jhenning@ca.uky.edu, Dr. Garry Lacefield, 270-365-7541 X202, e-mail glacefie@ca.uky.edu or Ms. Christi Forsythe, 270-365-7541 X221, e-mail cforsyth@ca.uky.edu

This conference will be the Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council's Winter Forage Conference. A short business meeting will be held at lunch, highlighted by our annual Awards Program.

ANNUAL RYEGRASS WINTER FEED INFORMATION SUPPLIED TO COUNTY AGENTS OFFICE

Annual ryegrasses are an 'emerging' forage for use in some pasture rotations across Kentucky. We do not have all the data needed to make long term statements about its adaptation for all parts of Kentucky (especially the northern areas), but UK has finished its second year of testing for this 'new to us' forage. The first years data can be found in the 2000 progress report on annual and perennial ryegrasses (www.ca.uky.edu/agc/pubs/pr/pr446/pr446.htm).

The yield data for 2001 has been summarized and has been supplied to county extension agents for agriculture. To summarize, plots were fall seeded in Princeton and at the WKU farm near Bowling Green. The top five varieties at Princeton were, in order, Zorro, Hercules, Avance, Marshall and Rio. The top five at Bowling Green were Zorro, Marshall, Big Daddy, Floralina and Rio. Winter sensitive varieties were planted in these plots and did not winterkill. Therefore we cannot separate these varieties on winterhardiness. We had minimal growth in fall and winter, and no harvests were taken until early April on both plots. Most growth took place in late March and April, with 35% of annual yield coming from the April 5/6 harvest and 43% on April 26/27. Total yields averaged 3.21 tons of dry matter per acre, which is significantly less than for 2000. For a full copy of the yield data by harvest and location,

please see your county agent for agriculture.

REGIONAL GRAZING CONFERENCE

Representatives from Illinois, Missouri, Indiana and Kentucky have been discussing the opportunities for a regional educational event featuring "Grazing" for some time. This past week a committee meeting resulted in plans for a "FIRST" Regional Grazing Conference sponsored by the above four states. The first conference will be held in Illinois (location to be announced soon) on January 24, 2002. Several sub-committees are hard at work putting the program together. It will consist of four featured keynote speakers in the morning and four or five breakout sessions in the afternoon. This program promises to be a most interesting, informative "Grazing" event. I encourage you to mark January 24, 2002 on your calendar and make plans to attend. More specific details later.

ENDOPHYTE INFECTED PERENNIAL RYEGRASS AND HORSE FARMS

Perennial ryegrass, found as a small percentage of a few pastures during farm visits this spring, was found to be endophyte infected. The perennial ryegrass found this spring is **not correlated to the Mare Reproductive Loss Syndrome**. This endophyte is similar to the tall fescue endophyte and can cause horse problems. The likelihood of problems from perennial ryegrass is very low due to its small proportion in pastures. The perennial ryegrass found in pastures now does not constitute a major concern to horse owners and farm managers. Perennial ryegrass is still a valid component of future horse pasture seedings and renovations, but any seed used should be low endophyte (5% or less) or endophyte free. This information will be on a green tag issued by the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

UPCOMING EVENTS

OCT 5	Southern Beef Day, Somerset
OCT 16-18	Grazing School, Princeton
NOV 29	Kentucky Grazing Conference
2002	
JAN 11	Forages at KCA, Bowling Green
FEB 21	XXII Kentucky Alfalfa Conference, Cave City

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Extension Forage Specialists
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