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## Forage News [2001-05]

University of Kentucky Department of Plant and Soil Sciences

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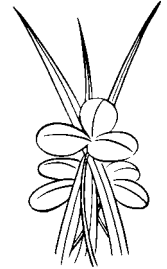
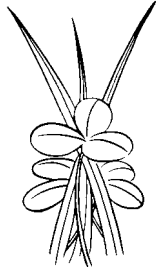
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# FORAGE NEWS



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**May 2001**

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

### *MAILING LIST UPDATE*

We are in the process of updating our mailing list. If you have an e-mail address we would like to send this newsletter to you electronically. If you do not have e-mail, and would like to continue receiving this newsletter, please fill out the enclosed form and return as soon as possible. **Beginning July 1**, we will use only the names of those persons who have returned the form or furnished their e-mail address, asking to remain on the mailing list. All county Extension offices in Kentucky will receive an e-mail version unless you specifically request that we send you a copy through the mail.

### *SPOKESPERSON CONTEST*

Russell C. Hackley, Grayson County farmer and KFGC board member, won the National Forage Spokesperson Contest at the American Forage and Grassland Council Annual Meeting in Springdale, Arkansas last week. Russell spoke on how he has evolved his forage program and implemented rotational grazing on his 300 acre farm. Russell competed against eight other farmers from across the United States and Canada. The competition was very tough, and the winner was decided by only a few points

### *KFGC SUMMER FIELD DAY SET FOR JUNE 19*

Mark Tuesday June 19 as the day for the KFGC Summer Field Day, beginning at 4 PM Central. The field day will feature the grazing system in place on the farm of Jerry and Mary Rich, near Tompkinsville in Monroe County (Directions below).

#### **Program**

- 4:00 Registration and visit trade show.
- Stop 1 Using new and different forages to extend the grazing system. *Dr. David Ditsch*
- Stop 2 Water development for grazing systems. *Ken Johnson*
- Stop 3 Weed control in pastures and hayfields. *Dr. J.D. Green*
- Stop 4 Getting cows fed and bred. *Dr. Les Anderson*
- Stop 5 Taking the next step in your grazing system. *Dr. Jimmy Henning*

Ribeye steak sandwiches will be served at the end of the field day, compliments of the Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council, the Monroe County Conservation District, and the Monroe County Extension Service.

**Directions:** Take Highway 163 North from Tompkinsville for 6 miles. Turn west on 678 and follow the signs.

### *SPECIAL DAIRY-BEEF GRAZING SCHOOL SET FOR JUNE 12-14*

A special 3-day grazing school is being hosted at the Tom Saunders Dairy Farm on Tuesday - Thursday June 12-14 at Sardis, KY in western Mason County. The classroom sections will be held at the Sardis Lions Club Building, located on US 62, 17 miles southwest of Maysville, KY.

The program will start later (8:45 on June 12, 9:00 on June 13-14) to accommodate local travel. The program will feature both classroom and field exercises designed to make you able to implement rotational grazing on your farm.

The host farm is the Tom Saunders Dairy, a 200 cow grazing dairy with a New Zealand style milking parlor. Registration Fee: \$100, payable to KFGC. Send all registrations to either Mason County Extension Office or to Donna Amaral-Phillips, UK Animal Science, 414 Garrigus Building, Lexington, 40546-0215. Pre-registration is necessary.

For more information, you can contact:

Jimmy Henning (859-257-3144,  
jhenning@ca.uky.edu) or  
Bill Peterson (859-564-6808,  
wpeterso@ca.uky.edu) or,  
Donna Amaral-Phillips (859-257-7542,  
damaral@ca.uky.edu)

### *HACKLEY WINS NATIONAL FORAGE*



*NATIONAL FORAGE TESTING  
ASSOCIATION LISTING OF HAY  
PROBES*

Several of you have contacted us about "Hay Probes". During a workshop lead by Dr. Mike Collins and Dr. Dan Putnam at the AFGC meetings the following listing of hay probes was provided. This list, along with other important information concerning forage testing, is available at the following website: [www.foragetesting.org](http://www.foragetesting.org)

- ◆ **Colorado Hay Probe.** Contact: UDY Corp., Phone: 970-482-2060. [www.udycorp.com](http://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: 612-469-2596.  
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.  
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 90° 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).

*REDUCING THE RISK OF HAY FIRES*

Each year there are many reports of hay barns burning, as well as of fires occurring in hay stored outside. Fire is always a concern with hay, but it takes on even greater importance when an expensive barn can be lost in addition to the hay.

Fire in stored hay may occur from either external or internal causes. Internally started fires are a result of hay going through an extreme heat. Heating is a direct result of microorganism activity in hay stored at high moisture levels. Even if excessive heating does not result in a fire, it will reduce forage quality.

The principal way to avoid fire resulting from internal heating (sometimes referred to as "spontaneous combustion," though this term is misleading) is to bale hay at proper moisture levels. Hay in round bales should contain no more than 18% moisture when placed inside a barn, while hay in small rectangular bales should contain no more than 20% moisture. Hay that is suspected of being too wet should be stored outside for about three weeks until the danger of combustion due to heating is past. New crop hay should never be placed against dry hay.

The danger of fire from heating of hay of higher-than-optimum moisture can be decreased somewhat by "loose stacking" the bales so good air movement and ventilation can occur. Hay preservatives, which reduce fungal and bacterial growth, sprayed on hay during the baling process help reduce (though do not always prevent) excessive heating in higher moisture hay. Bales known to contain, or suspected of containing, excessive moisture can be temporarily loosely stacked outside, then moved inside after the danger of fire is past.

If there is a need to check the temperature of hay, it can be done by fitting a sharpened end on a 10-foot section of 1/2 inch pipe, then driving it into the hay, followed by lowering a thermometer into the pipe. Temperatures below 120°F are normal, and 120° to 140° are in the caution range. Hay heating of 160° or higher is in serious danger of catching fire. Temperature can build in hay, particularly within the first week or two after baling, and therefore periodic monitoring of temperature until it is clear there is no danger of fire is advisable. (SOURCE: *Minimizing Losses in Hay Storage & Feeding*, D.M. Ball, et al., 1998)

*UPCOMING EVENTS*

JUN 19	KFGC Grazing Field Day, Monroe County
JUN 12-14	Grazing School, Mason County
JUL 19	UK Field Day, Quicksand
OCT 16-18	Grazing School, Princeton
NOV 27	Kentucky Grazing Conference
<b>2002</b>	
FEB 21	XXII Kentucky Alfalfa Conference, Cave City

*Garry D. Lacefield*  
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Jimmy C. Henning  
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# *Extension Forage Specialists*

May 2001