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Forage News

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## Forage News [2000-12]

Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, University of Kentucky

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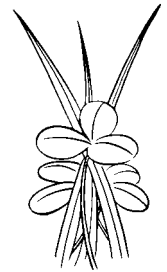
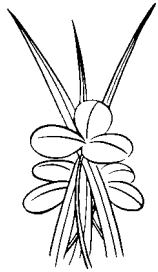
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# FORAGE NEWS



## In this month's issue:

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**December 2000**

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



## Seasons Greetings

### FORAGES AT KCA

Keys to Forage Profitability is the theme for the "Forages at KCA" program to be held at the Executive Inn West in Louisville from 9:30 to 11:00 on January 19. The program will feature four speakers and cover: 1) Keys to Profitable Forage Production, 2) Which Warm Season Grasses Work Best for Kentucky, 3) Practical Strategies for Controlling Weeds in Pastures, and 4) Round Bale Silage. The program will conclude in time for the Kickoff Luncheon of the Kentucky Cattlemen's Convention.

### KENTUCKY AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

Last month I received a copy of Kentucky Agricultural Statistics 1999-2000 from Mr. Leland Brown, State Statistician, Kentucky Agricultural Statistics Service. Although I always enjoy getting this report and using it in our forage program; I was particularly pleased to get this edition since it has a beautiful picture of the Beef Unit at the University of Kentucky Research and Education Center in Princeton on the cover. Despite the worst drought in recent memory during 1999, Kentucky farmers produced 3.46 billion dollars worth of agricultural products. Kentucky ranks fourth nationally in farm numbers with 91,000 farms, up 1000 from 1998. The average size farm was 149 acres down four acres from 1998. During 1999, Kentucky lost 7000 dairy cows and 200 dairy farms (an average of almost four per week). Kentucky ranks in the top 20 of almost all agricultural products. Examples and national ranking include: corn for

grain (14), corn for silage (18), wheat (19), all hay (14), alfalfa hay (27), all other hay (3), all tobacco (2), burley tobacco (1), soybeans (17), sorghum (15), all cattle (13), beef cows (8), milk cows (18), hogs and pigs (20), and broilers (13). Livestock products accounted for 2.16 billion and crops 1.3 billion dollars in cash receipts during 1999.

My compliments to Mr. Lee Brown and all his staff for providing these important statistics on Kentucky Agriculture. The Kentucky Agricultural Statistics Service data is available at their home page located at:

<http://www.nass.usda.gov/ky/>

(SOURCE: Ky. Ag. Statistics 1999-2000)

### KFGC INSTALLS NEW OFFICERS

The Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council will have new leadership for 2001 following the annual meeting held in conjunction with the Kentucky Grazing Conference in Bowling Green on November 28. Taking over as President is Bill Talley with Seedbiotics. Bill lives in Princeton and has served on the KFGC Board of Directors and chaired the awards committee the past three years. He was instrumental in developing the Coupon Book that gives KFGC members discounts on forage supply purchases. Moving into the Vice Presidents position is Ken Johnson from Monroe County. Ken is a beef producer and NRCS District Conservationist. He also has served on the KFGC Board and helped with many KFGC sponsored programs such as the annual forage conference, alfalfa conference, and grazing schools. Ken organized a silent auction that raises money to support KFGC projects. Dr. Jimmy Henning will continue to serve as Secretary/Treasurer. Jimmy is Extension Forage Specialist in Lexington and provides the "glue" that holds KFGC together. With this caliber of leadership and a strong Board of Directors, the future of KFGC is bright. (Monroe Rasnake)

### FORAGE AWARDS PRESENTED

The Kentucky Forage & Grassland Council presented their annual awards during the Grazing

Conference in Bowling Green on November 28. The Public Service to Forages-State Award winner was Dr. Oran Little. Dr. Little is retiring as Dean of the UK College of Agriculture at the end of this year. He has been an avid supporter of forage research and educational activities in his career as Dean, Associate Dean for Research and as a faculty member in the Department of Animal Science. This award is in recognition of his many years of support to the forage industry in Kentucky. Gary Tilghman, Extension Agriculture Agent in Barren County, was presented the Public Service to Forages-County Award. Gary does an excellent job with forage education in Barren County, but also has been active at the state level. He has assisted with annual state-wide field days and the Alfalfa Conference. The KFGC Industry Award was presented to Phil Rowland with Merial. Phil is a member of the KFGC Board of Directors and has been a strong supporter of forage educational programs in Kentucky. Merial has supported the forage program in connection with the Kentucky Cattlemen Association for several years. The Grassroots Award for an outstanding forage producer was presented to Nicky Baker from Caldwell County. Nicky is a progressive forage producer on his farm and has served on the KFGC Board of Directors. We want to say thanks, and congratulations to the four award winners for 2000. (*Monroe Rasnake*)

### KENTUCKY GRAZING CONFERENCE

The first statewide Grazing Conference held in Bowling Green November 28 was a big success. Over 200 people attended the conference representing seven states. Many exhibitors were present to discuss products and services with conference participants. A very practical program was presented by leading speakers from public, private and producer sectors. Keynote presentations by Mr. Jim Gerrish and Dr. Gary Bates were highlights of the morning program. Three breakout sessions were repeated in the afternoon and concluded by three leading producers and beef cattle scientist addressing the topic "How we make grazing work on the farm?" Our thanks to all who helped to make our first Grazing Conference a success.

### SMALL FARM PUTS STOCK IN MANAGED GRAZING

When you call, you are likely to hear the answering machine saying, "You have reached Bovine Ridge Farm, home of Ronnie and Nancy Young. We are probably out on the farm doing farm things, far away from the phone....".

Those "farm things" referred to are all related to the Young's principles of upholding the highest standards of stewardship for the place they care for, and which in turn, sustains them. On the hills overlooking the Kentucky River near Port Royal in Henry County, the farm contains a significant amount of steep, wooded land, with fingers of ridge top land. A timber stand improvement program is in place to insure both a present and future economy in the wooded lands. Wildlife is abundant, creating nearly year round recreational hunting. The more sloping ridge top land is in permanent vegetation - mostly fescue and orchardgrass, with red clover frost seeded in February. The very best ground is used in a rotation of alfalfa for

hay and tobacco as a cash crop.

A commercial herd of 21 cows, a bull, and their spring calves get the benefit of 31 acres of rotationally grazed pasture, getting out on nitrated straight grass pastures as early as the spring weather allows, then utilizing renovated pastures until cold weather sets in, then getting stockpiled fescue through December. Timely rains in 2000 kept the pasture going, but Ronnie generally plans to augment hot summer pasture with some hay that he takes as permitted from the grazing acreage. Ronnie studied concepts of rotational grazing through some "Pasture Walks" presented in past years by the Extension Service in Henry County, and now encourages others to take advantage of the increased forage quality and quantity through simply dividing pasture fields.

The Young's hosted an Extension Farm Field Day this spring, allowing a sizeable group to visit the farm and enjoy what the Young's enjoy every day. Educational topics for the Field Day included Woodland Management, Wildlife Enhancement, Forage Management, a demonstration of pasture renovation techniques, and a demonstration of a Sporting Clays Range that Ronnie set up to further enjoy this productive farm. (*Steve Moore, Henry County Agricultural Extension Agent*)

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### 2001

- JAN 19 Forages at KCA, KCA Convention, Louisville
- FEB 10-21 International Grassland Congress, Brazil
- MAR 1 21<sup>st</sup> Kentucky Alfalfa Conference, Cave City
- MAR 6 Central Alfalfa Conference, Lexington
- APR 17-19 Grazing School, Springfield



*Happy  
Holidays*

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

December 2000