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## Forage News [2000-09]

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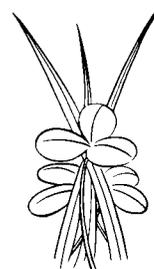
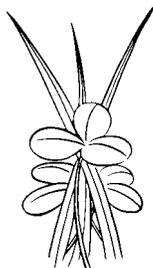
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# FORAGE NEWS



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## September 2000

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

### VARIETY TESTING RESULTS ARE AVAILABLE

This is just a reminder that UK does have current yield and grazing tolerance variety information for the major forage crops in Kentucky. These are available at you local county extension office or on the internet at the following url: [www.ca.uky.edu/agc/pubs/respubs.htm](http://www.ca.uky.edu/agc/pubs/respubs.htm) The latest forage reports are numbered PR-425 through PR-430.

### FALL GRAZING SCHOOL IS ON FOR OCTOBER 16-18 IN PRINCETON

The Kentucky Grazing School has set the dates and location for the fall 2000 3-day school. This class will be Monday October 16 through Wednesday October 18 at the UK Research and Education Center in Princeton. Contact Jimmy Henning (859-257-3144 or [jhenning@ca.uky.edu](mailto:jhenning@ca.uky.edu)) or Ken Johnson (270-487-6589 or [kjohnson@kystate.ky.nrcs.usda.gov](mailto:kjohnson@kystate.ky.nrcs.usda.gov)) for registration information. The registration fee amount has not been set but should be considerably less than the regular \$125 per person because UK has received another grant to support the school.

As usual, this school will be a combination of classroom and hands-on field training on designing, managing, constructing, and working with intensive grazing systems. All participants will receive a full grazing manual, a searchable CD of all UK forage, beef, and related publications, Southern Forages, a Forage Pocket Guide, a full color Forage Identification and Use Guide, and other related publications.

Spaces are limited. You can find the full program information posted on the Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council web page ([www.kfgc.org](http://www.kfgc.org)).

### GRAZING CONFERENCE SET FOR NOVEMBER

The Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council, in conjunction with the University of Kentucky and a number of other groups and organizations in Kentucky, are combining efforts for a "first" Statewide Conference on Grazing. The Conference will be held November 28 at the Western Kentucky University Exposition Center in Bowling Green. Leading speakers from Kentucky will present the latest practical information on "grazing". Two nationally known speakers will keynote the Conference. Mr. Jim Gerrish, world renowned authority on grazing and founder of the Missouri Grazing School will address the topic "How Far Can We Go With Grazing?". In addition, Dr. Gary Bates, Extension Forage Specialist from the University of Tennessee will speak on the topic of "Summer Grazing Options". In addition, there will be exhibits featuring supplies and services related to forage-livestock systems. Commodity groups and educational displays will also be present. A silent auction will offer seed, supplies, services, books and publications along with other practical, useful items.

A nominal registration fee will cover refreshments, lunch, proceedings and other publications. More details along with the full program will be featured in next month's Forage News.

### FORAGE SYMPOSIUM TO KICK-OFF KCA MEETING

For the seventh consecutive year, a "Forage" program will lead the KCA Conference. The program committee has set the theme of "Keys to Forage Profitability" for the Symposium to be held January 19, 2001 at the Executive Inn West in Louisville. The program will begin at 9:30 and conclude at 11:00 in order for participants to visit

exhibits before the KCA opening luncheon. Topics and speakers include: Keys to Profitable Forage Programs - Dr. Garry Lacefield; Which Warm Season Grasses Work Best in Kentucky? - Dr. Monroe Rasnake; Practical Strategies for Controlling Weeds in Pastures - Dr. Jimmy Henning; and, Round Bale Silage - Dr. Mike Collins. A proceedings and additional publications will be available. There is no registration fee for the Forage Symposium.

## **WKU PROFESSOR WINS AFGC EMERGING SCIENTIST CONTEST**

Byron Sleugh, new Assistant Professor of Agriculture at Western Kentucky University, placed first in the Emerging Scientist Competition at the recent meeting of the American Forage and Grassland Council in Madison, Wisconsin. Byron was one of six who competed for this highly competitive award. His paper was from his Doctoral research project while he has at Iowa State University. Congratulations to Byron for his outstanding research and presentation.

## **DOES AERATION OF PASTURES AND HAYFIELDS PAY?**

A few replicated field experiments have been conducted with aerators or chisels on pastures or hayfields. Coastal bermudagrass on an eroded soil with a clay pan on the surface was chiseled to a depth of six inches which doubled or tripled forage yields in Texas. In Wales, a perennial ryegrass pasture on clay loam soil grazed with cattle for 26 years was aerated with rotating long triangles that penetrated to a depth of 5 inches, doubling forage yield.

In contrast to these two success stories, other experiments have been less encouraging. In eastern Oklahoma, treatment of a bermudagrass pasture with a spike-toothed aerator had little effect on yield. A large 2-year study on aeration was done on silty soil in Mississippi when an aerator, shank renovator, disk, and deep chisel were compared to controls. Treatments were also tested at different times of the year. The aerator penetrated to a depth of 2 inches on silty soil and nearly 23 inches on the sandy loam. None of the treatments had any effect on soil penetration resistance, moisture content, or forage yield.

Experiments at the University of Tennessee on tall fescue showed virtually no difference in forage yield between aerated and non-aerated areas. Demonstrations with aerated and non-aerated strips of tall fescue on four farms in south central Tennessee showed a forage yield advantage of only 214 pounds of dry forage per acre. The cost of aeration was estimated at approximately \$10 per acre. It was concluded that aeration did not pay the expenses. In north Alabama, two types of soil aerators increased tall fescue yields but the cost of

aeration exceeded the value of extra forage produced. (SOURCE: Dr. Carl S. Hoveland, University of Georgia, *IN The Forage Leader*, Summer 2000, Vol. 5, #2, AFGC.)

## **QUALITY CLOVER SEED: IMPACT IN TENNESSEE**

(Personal communication, Dr. Gary Bates, Extension Forage Specialist, University of Tennessee)

It is often difficult to determine the statewide impact from an educational program. The Agriculture Production Efficiency and Sustainability priority program focus on forage education has clearly had an impact on the knowledge level of producers in Tennessee. Extension agents and specialists across the state have focused much effort on teaching producers the value of adding recommended varieties of clovers to grass pastures. The sale of recommended varieties of red and white clover has increased more than 100 percent over the last six years. Almost 80 percent of the red and white clover seed purchased by producers from the major agricultural supplier in Tennessee are recommended varieties. The potential economic impact from this change is estimated to be over 6 million dollars.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- |             |                                                                 |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| OCT 16-18   | Kentucky Grazing School, UKREC, Princeton                       |
| OCT 24-26   | Alfalfa Intensive Training Seminar, Wooster, OH                 |
| NOV 5-9     | American Society of Agronomy, Minneapolis, MN                   |
| NOV 28      | Kentucky Grazing Conference, Bowling Green                      |
| DEC 4       | Forage Commodity Conference, Farm Bureau Convention, Louisville |
| <b>2001</b> |                                                                 |
| 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         |

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