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Forage News [2000-08]

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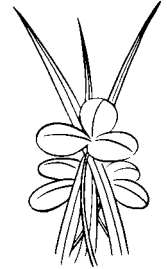
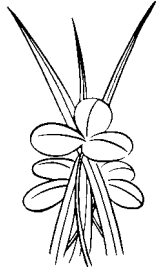
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FORAGE NEWS



In this month's issue:

- Southern Beef Day Set for October 6 in Somerset
 - Late Summer Forage Establishment
 - Hay Contest Can Mean Big Bucks at Southern Beef Day
 - AFGC Conference
 - Extending Pasture Through Stockpiling
 - Upcoming Events
-

August 2000

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

SOUTHERN BEEF DAY SET FOR OCTOBER 6 IN SOMERSET

The third "Southern Beef Day" will be held October 6 at the Rural Development Center in Somerset. "This year's program promises to be an eye opener for beef cattle producers. The speakers will address a variety of topics surrounding the issue of improving profits in the beef herd," said Paul Deaton, Extension area agent with the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture. Deaton said that the Beef Day 2000 program will begin at 8 a.m. with a trade show. Following that will be the educational program that will include a discussion of trends in cattle marketing, featuring Jim Gibb of E-Merge, Tommy Gibson of Eastern Livestock, and Lee Meyer, Extension livestock marketing specialist with the UK College of Agriculture. Following that hour-long presentation will be a panel discussion concerning managing pastures for maximum profits, featuring three Kentucky cattle producers. After lunch, the program will resume with several topics from which participants can select. One presentation will focus on grazing corn fields for beef cattle, another will be concerned with breeding management programs that improve production, and a third presentation will discuss health problems associated with beef cattle production, Deaton said. All three of the presentation will be repeated twice. The final presentation of the day will be a discussion by a cattle producer from Virginia about how he made changes in his operation to improve his income. A special feature this year, Deaton said, will be a hay judging contest in the trade show area. The Southern Beef Day is sponsored cooperatively by the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, the Kentucky Cattlemen's Association, the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, Elanco, Pfizer, the Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation, Meriel and Southern States. *(Paul Deaton)*

LATE SUMMER FORAGE ESTABLISHMENT

Many producers will be establishing forage crops

this fall. The Pasture Recovery Program of the Farm Services Agency is covering a lot of these costs. Remember the following points to help increase your success rate:

- a: Take care of soil fertility needs
- b: Select an adapted, high yielding, persistent, variety
- c: Control competition prior to and after seeding
- d: Seed the correct amount of seed at the proper time and at the proper depth.

Late summer and early fall is the very best time to establish the major cool season grasses in Kentucky. These grasses (orchardgrass, tall fescue, timothy, bluegrass) will NOT do well if they are just broadcast onto existing overgrazed or mowed pastures. They must be worked into the top 1/4 to 1/2" of soil either by using a drill or by doing some seedbed preparation.

Many will be trying to thicken up pastures that have been damaged by the drought and overgrazing of 1999. To maximize the success of these seedings, it would be good to use a burn-down herbicide such as the Gramoxone formulations to kill annual weeds. Translocated herbicides like Roundup or Touchdown can be used where labeled to kill or suppress perennials like johnsongrass. Be careful to wait 2 to 3 weeks after spraying these translocated herbicides before planting in no-till situations. This delay will allow killed weeds to dry out and will also allow time for the residual effects of the herbicide to decay. There is at least some evidence that new, tender seedlings may be killed by coming in contact with small amounts of glyphosate-type material that adheres to sprayed forage material.

Legumes will also need to be drilled for best success results. Fully prepared conventional seedbeds will be an exception. In this case, a broadcast seeding followed by one or two passes with a cultipacking (corrugated) roller will give excellent results.

Late summer seedings of alfalfa are susceptible

to sclerotinia stem and crown rot. If sclerotinia has been active in your area or farm in the past, strongly consider delaying alfalfa seeding to spring.

Late summer seedings of white and red clover can be effective. However, this reduces the productive life of red clover (we lose about 1/2 of a growing season's worth of yield).

What are the two biggest challenges to successful seedings of grasses and clover this fall? Number one is available moisture. Number two is not addressing the existing vegetation. There will be an overwhelming temptation to minimize costs by just drilling or even broadcasting seed over acres just to get the CRP payment. Take the time to control existing competition by herbicides or by disking and to get the seed in good contact with the soil. Let's make some headway toward higher quality pastures.

HAY CONTEST CAN MEAN BIG BUCKS AT SOUTHERN BEEF DAY

Attending the Southern Beef Day in Somerset on October 6 can pay you up to \$200 if you are good at guessing the forage quality of square bales and the weight of round bales. The Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council (KFGC) is sponsoring a Hay Quality and Weight Contest at the Kentucky Department of Agriculture booth in the exhibit area. Make your best guess of the forage quality (crude protein and TDN) of two small square bales and the weight of a large round bale and turn your card in to any commercial exhibitor. A \$100 prize will be given to both the person that best estimates the quality of the two bales and who guesses closest to the actual bale weight. We hope to see you there.

AFGC CONFERENCE

Kentucky was well represented at the American Forage and Grassland Council Annual Conference in Madison, Wisconsin July 15-19. At least a dozen from Kentucky attended. We were also honored in several ways. First of all, Larry Jeffries served as only the second farmer President of AFGC and did an outstanding job. Second, Jimmy Henning won first place in the national photo contest with a picture of a butterfly on a red clover flower. Finally, the Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council was named the best Affiliate Council by receiving the President's Award for 2000. This is the second time KFGC has won the award - the only state to do so in the history of the award. The next conference will be in Arkansas in April 2001. (*Monroe Rasnake*)

EXTENDING PASTURE THROUGH STOCKPILING

Nutrients in the form of pasture are usually the cheapest that we can provide to our livestock in Kentucky. Nutrients in the form of pasture are often only 1/4 to 1/2 the cost of nutrients in hay or silage. Practices such as "stockpiling" to extend our pasture through late fall-early winter can help extend our

pasture season, reduce the amount of hay needed and lower the cost for wintering cattle..

Studies at Ohio State University have shown that amount (cost) of hay fed is usually a good predictor of potential profitability in the average beef cow herd. Workers in Missouri used stockpiled tall fescue to extend the grazing season and reduce the amount of hay fed. In the studies, grazing stockpiled tall fescue reduced annual feed cost by \$50/hd.

Stockpiling in it's simplest definition is growing pasture during August-October for later use in November-January. In Kentucky, we have two near ideal grasses for stockpiling, Kentucky bluegrass and tall fescue.

Nitrogen and water are keys to success when stockpiling grasses. Apply nitrogen (40-80 pounds) in mid-August on closely grazed or mowed tall fescue or Kentucky bluegrass pastures. Use other pastures on the farm during the stockpiling period. Once other pastures are used, move to the stockpiled fields. Kentucky data shows that if water is available during the stockpiling period, yields can be very good. Tall fescue can produce two tons of dry matter from mid-August to late November. Efficiency of 25 pounds of dry matter for each pound of nitrogen can be achieved when water is adequate.

To get the most from stockpiled pastures, use a temporary electric fence across the field dividing it so the area to be grazed first has a source of water and minerals. Once the area is used, move the wire and repeat the process. Missouri workers found that offering animals a three day vs. a 12-day supply of stockpiled pasture resulted in one-third more grazing days per acre.

For more detailed information on stockpiling for fall and winter pastures, stop by your County Extension Agent for Agriculture's office and get a complimentary copy of AGR-162.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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| AUG 6 | National Clover Symposium, Jackson, Mississippi |
| OCT 16-18 | Kentucky Grazing School, UKREC, Princeton |
| 2001
MAR 1 | 21 st Kentucky Alfalfa Conference, Cave City |

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