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Forage News [2000-06]

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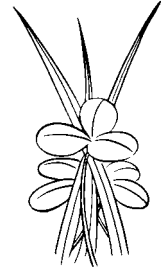
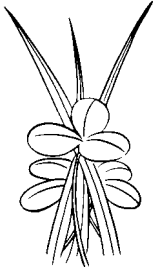
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FORAGE NEWS



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-

June 2000

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

FORAGE-BEEF FIELD DAY IS JUNE 8

Plan to attend the UK-KFGC Field Day on June 8 at the Eden Shale Farm in Owen County. The field day will begin with supper, which will be served from 5:30 to 6:30. Dean Oran Little will address the group after supper.

After supper, tours of the farm will begin. The topics covered will include:

- Improved, cost-effective hay storage: See a new design for a hay shed built with lumber from the farm.
- The basics of making haylage using round bales.
- Early weaning: What does it mean and how do I know when to do it?
- How many cows does it take to replace one acre of tobacco?
- Managing for the maximum grazing season.
- Selecting forage varieties: What do we know about variety performance from the Eden Shale forage trials?
- In addition, the KY Dept. of Agriculture's NIR hay testing laboratory will be on hand to test forage samples that day. Take 20 cores to make a good sample. Forage samples tested that day will be done at no charge, courtesy of the KY Dept. of Agriculture.

Speakers will include the Northern Kentucky Ag. Agents (assisting at every stop and with the hay testing), Don Ely, Jimmy Henning, John Johns, Garry Lacefield, Tim Phillips, and Robert Spitaleri.

The farm is located 7 miles east of Owenton on KY 22 at the intersection of KY 22 and KY 845. Supper will be sponsored by the Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council and various corporate members of the forage council. Commercial sponsors of this field day include Merial, Seedbiotics,

Turner Seed Company, Barenbrug Seed Company, and Novartis Seed Company.

U.K. ALL COMMODITY FIELD DAY

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE characterizes the U.K. All Commodity Field Day to be held July 20 at the U.K. Research and Education Center in Princeton. The big tent will be filled with educational exhibits. There will be eighteen different tours running continuously throughout the day. Special events, demonstrations and seminars will be conducted during the day. We hope to see all of you under the BIG TOP July 20.

AFGC DEADLINE IS JUNE 15

The deadline for registration for the AFGC annual meeting is June 15. This year the meeting is in Madison, Wisconsin, July 16-19. The program will include farmer presentations, and special seminars on grazing alfalfa and Roundup Ready Alfalfa. In addition, there will be tours of local dairy farms, the USDA Dairy Forage Research Center and the research farms of Pioneer and W-L Research. Registration information can be found on the web (www.afgc.org) or by calling AFGC headquarters at 800-944-2342.

Jimmy Henning will be taking a UK van to Wisconsin leaving on July 14 from Lexington and space on the van is still available. This group will visit a large dairy farm and a cash hay operation on the trip up. The van will return to Lexington on July 20. If you would like to ride in the van, contact Jimmy Henning.

BERMUDAGRASS VARIETIES

World Feeder is a commercial variety selected

and released in 1991 by a producer in Oklahoma. It has good winter hardiness and establishment. Experiment station trials in Oklahoma and Arkansas show that it was substantially lower yielding than Tifton 44 bermudagrass. In a 3-year trial at Tifton, GA, World Feeder yielded only 38% as much as Coastal and 31% as much as Tifton 85 bermudagrass (Unpublished data, G.W. Burton). It is not recommended in Georgia. (SOURCE: Carl S. Hoveland, Univ. of Georgia, Athens)

FRIENDLY ENDOPHYTE

Below are a few questions concerning the "Novel Endophyte". These were taken from a more comprehensive list that we developed:

Is there such a thing as a "friendly" or "novel" endophyte?

Yes, since the discovery of the endophyte in tall fescue, scientists have hoped for a tall fescue plant that would have the fungus that would give all the good agronomic characteristics of tall fescue but would not cause the animal performance problems.

How was the "novel", "friendly" endophyte developed?

The "novel" endophyte was inserted into tall fescue. The objective was to allow the friendly endophyte to give the tall fescue plant the toughness and persistence of toxic tall fescue and the animal performance of non-toxic.

Who developed it?

To obtain this unusual combination, Dr. Joe Bouton at the University of Georgia and Dr. Gary Latch of Ag Research in New Zealand reinfected a reportedly non-toxic fungal endophyte into the endophyte-free Jesup and Georgia 5 variety.

How will it be marketed?

Max Q is the name trade-marked by Pennington Seed for this new non-toxic endophyte technology.

Is there research underway at the University of Kentucky to develop new endophytes to help maximize forage and livestock production?

Researchers under the direction of Dr. Christopher Schardl are modifying the common tall fescue endophyte to remove the genes this fungus uses to produce toxic agents (namely, ergot alkaloids). One advantage to this approach is that it will ensure that these toxins cannot be produced under any circumstances. Another advantage is that the modifications will be done to an endophyte (*Neotyphodium coenophialum*) that is thoroughly researched and well known to provide enhanced forage production and stand persistence.

Are other states involved in research to develop "novel" endophyte?

Yes, in addition to Georgia and Kentucky, researchers at Auburn University and the University of Arkansas have active research programs in this area.

How have animals performed in Max Q grazing trials?

Research at the Central Georgia Branch Station showed that Max Q with Jesup or Georgia 5, and endophyte-free Jesup had similar lamb gains of 0.37 lbs/day or nearly twice that of lambs on endophyte-infected Jesup. Beef steers grazed on Max Q Jesup and Georgia 5 from April to June in 1999 at the Central Georgia Branch Station, had average gains of 2.6 lbs/day as compared to 1.7 lbs/day on endophyte-infected Jesup.

Will Max Q survive in pastures?

Georgia results showed that when managed as recommended, Max Q tall fescue gave excellent animal performance and stand survival.

Has it been tested in Kentucky?

We have got comparisons of MaxQ with other fescues for both yield and grazing tolerance. In these trials, MaxQ is listed as the experimental line Jesup542. In both cases, MaxQ (Jesup542) tall fescue did not perform better than the same tall fescue (Jesup EF) without any endophyte. To see the full report, please see Table 5 in Progress Report 428 (Cool Season Grass Grazing Tolerance Variety Report) and Table 4 in Progress Report 429 (The 1999 Tall Fescue Report).

What is the price of Max Q?

Seed price is approximately \$4.00 per pound and farmers must sign a purchase agreement indicating no seed will be harvested.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JUN 8	KFGC Field Day, Eden Shale Farm, Owenton
JUN 12-14	Southern Pasture Conference, Raleigh, NC
JUL 16-19	AFGC, Madison, WI
JUL 20	U.K. All Commodity Field Day, Princeton
2001	
MAR 1	21 st Kentucky Alfalfa Conference, Cave City

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