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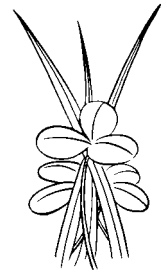
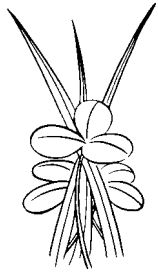
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FORAGE NEWS



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 - 20th Kentucky Alfalfa Conference
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February 2000

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

20TH KENTUCKY ALFALFA CONFERENCE

February 24, 2000

**Cave City Convention Center
Cave City, Kentucky**

and improve the grass stand.

Suppose right now (February) you have a field that has a good grass stand, but very little clover. If you don't want to renovate with clover this spring, topdressing with up to 100 pounds per acre of nitrogen about mid-February may allow you to start grazing earlier and boost carrying capacity through spring. Urea can be used at this time with little risk of nitrogen loss. Nitrogen can be applied again in early May; however, there is a risk of stimulating summer weeds. Another good time to use nitrogen fertilizer is in early August for stockpiling grass for use in late fall or early winter. There is a risk of significant loss of nitrogen through volatilization if urea is used in early May or August. Rates can be adjusted upward about 20% to compensate for possible nitrogen loss. (Monroe Rasnake)

KFGC PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council Board of Directors met at Rough River Dam State Resort Park January 20 and 21 to discuss plans for 2000 and beyond. The next educational event coming up is the Alfalfa Conference in Cave City on February 24th. The Grazing Schools this spring are scheduled for April 25, 26 and 27 in Springfield at the Washington County Extension Service Office. You can register for one, two or all three days for \$20 per day by contacting Jimmy Henning. Our annual field day will be at the Eden Shale Farm near Owenton the week of June 5-9. The exact time and date have not been set. The Annual Forage Conference will be moved back to a winter setting and will be planned for January, February or early March of 2001.

The Research Committee is working on a list of forage research needs for Kentucky. They will meet again in Lexington on February 1. Anyone who has a suggestion for research in forages can send it to me and I will be sure the committee gets it. In fact, anytime you have suggestions to improve KFGC, feel free to send them in. (Monroe Rasnake)

NITROGEN ON PASTURES

Kentucky pastures can sometimes benefit from added nitrogen. Ideally, we'd like to have a good stand of clovers to provide the nitrogen our pastures need, but there are times when we don't. It is often weather related; like the dry summer and fall of 1999, or a dry spring. When this happens, a good shot of nitrogen fertilizer can boost yields

UK COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE WANTS YOUR COMMENTS

The University of Kentucky College of Agriculture is undergoing a periodic review, and invites you to be a part of the process. By giving your comments, you can help the college gauge how well it is meeting your needs and what it must do to continue to accomplish the service, research and teaching missions of land-grant universities.

The periodic reviews include all UK colleges and departments over time. In its last review in 1994, the College of Agriculture used a survey to collect information.

The college will use a similar survey for this year's review. The survey will have many of the same questions used in the 1994 review. This process will enable the college to compare how well it has responded to your needs between 1994 and 2000. The new survey also will have some new questions to provide additional information for the review process.

In addition to the surveys, three public meetings will take place in February. These forums will give people the opportunity to share personal experiences on how the College of Agriculture is serving them. Meetings will be February 22 beginning at 10 a.m. at the Robinson Experiment Station in Quicksand; February 28 starting at 1 p.m. at the Research and Education Center in Princeton; and February 29 beginning at 1 p.m. in Seay Auditorium at the Agricultural Sciences Building North on the university campus in Lexington.

The survey is available electronically on the College of

Results of surveys and meetings will be used by university administrators to determine how the college responds to special initiatives and current concerns in Kentucky. The review also will be used to rate the college's accomplishments in setting priorities, capitalizing on its strengths, contributing to intellectual and cultural diversity, and helping meet the university's missions and goals.

BERMUDAGRASS ESTABLISHMENT: WHAT DOES IT COST?

Recent questions about bermudagrass varieties have increased after the drought of 1999. The following table is intended to compare the cost of establishing two bermudagrass varieties (see comments in table). Other adapted bermuda varieties include Hardee, Tifton 44, and Midland. A valid question is whether sprigging Quickstand bermudagrass at a higher rate is better than having World Feeder custom planted. Quickstand has been studied in Kentucky for over 20 years. It has excellent winter survivability and is a medium hay producer compared to other forage varieties. Experience with World Feeder in Kentucky is limited and its winter hardiness and yield potential are uncertain.

World Feeder¹ vs. Quickstand² Bermuda Establishment Comparison			
	World Feeder	Quickstand	
Site Preparation	plow/disk	plow/disk	Comment
Sprigs	\$400/ac (20 bu/ac rate)	\$60/ac (20 bu/ac rate)	\$3.00/bu (<4,000 bu) \$1.75/bu (>4,000 bu)
Sprig Planting (custom)	\$40/ac	\$4.24/ac	tractor, manure spreader+ disking operating cost ⁽³⁾
Shipping (No shipping charge for custom sprigging)	None	\$180 (or \$0.14/bu for >4,000 bu load delivered)	\$15/hr for medium truck (12 hrs round trip from Lexington, KY to Fayetteville, TN) ⁽³⁾
Total Cost (20 bu/ac)	\$440/ac	\$244.25/ac at 20 bu	\$364.25/ac at 60 bu \$484.25/ac at 100 bu
¹ Cost estimate from personal communication with Jack Hobbs, Campbellsville, KY. ² Cost estimate from Charles Williams and Associates, Fayetteville, TN ³ Equipment cost estimates from "Kentucky Custom Rates for Farm Machinery". UK publication AEC-81.			

(David Ditsch and Jimmy Henning)

20TH KENTUCKY ALFALFA CONFERENCE

Our "Twentieth Anniversary Kentucky Alfalfa Conference" will be held February 24 at the Cave City Convention Center. New features include an Awards Program and a Silent Auction. Since it is our 20th Anniversary, we will have TWO (2) 'Keynote' speakers. Dr. Don Ball, nationally recognized Forage Specialist from Auburn University and Dr. Becky Greenwald, nationally recognized Industry Leader in Alfalfa, will be featured on the program. Topics and speakers include:

- 8:00 Registration, Visit Exhibits, Silent Auction
- 9:00 Welcome -
Dr. Oran Little, University of Kentucky
Mr. Larry Jeffries, American Forage & Grassland Council
Mr. Steve Johnston, Alfalfa Council
Dr. Monroe Rasnake, Kentucky Forage & Grassland Council
- 9:20 Kentucky Alfalfa Conference: After Twenty Years - Dr. Garry Lacefield
- 9:30 Agronomic and Economic Importance of Selecting the Right Alfalfa Variety - Dr. Jimmy Henning
- 9:45 Advances in Seed Coating - Mr. Bill Talley
- 10:00 Fertilizing Alfalfa for Profit - Dr. Monroe Rasnake
- 10:15 Break, Visit Exhibits, Silent Auction
- 10:45 Herbicide Options for Spring Seeded Alfalfa - Dr. J. D. Green
- 11:00 An Alfalfa Disease Calendar - Dr. Paul Vincelli
- 11:30 Hay Testing & Marketing - Mr. Allen Johnson
- 11:45 Opportunities for Alfalfa as a Grazing Crop - Mr. Ken Johnson
- 12:00 Lunch, Visit Exhibits, Silent Auction, Awards Presentation
- 1:00 Reducing Alfalfa Harvesting Losses - Dr. Mike Collins
- 1:30 Little Known Facts About Alfalfa - Dr. Don Ball
- 2:00 Changes in Alfalfa Breeding - Where is Alfalfa Headed? - Dr. Becky Greenwald
- 2:30 Discussion, Silent Auction Results, Adjourn

There is a registration fee of \$15.00 which includes a copy of the proceedings, publications and other printed materials, breaks and lunch.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- FEB 22 College Review-Public Forum, Robinson Experiment Station, Quicksand
- FEB 24 20th Kentucky Alfalfa Conference, Cave City
- FEB 28 College Review-Public Forum, Research & Education Center, Princeton
- FEB 29 College Review-Public Forum, Seay Auditorium, UK Campus, Lexington
- APR 25-27 Kentucky Grazing School, Springfield
- JUL 16-19 AFGC, Madison, WI
- JUL 20 U.K. All Commodity Field Day, Princeton

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Extension Forage Specialists
 February 2000

