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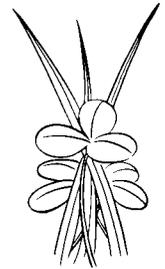
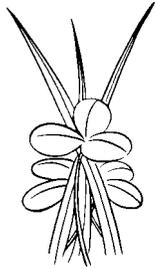
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FORAGE NEWS



In this month's issue:

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January 2000

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

FORAGES AT KCA

This marks the fifth consecutive year that we have joined forces with the Kentucky Cattlemen to offer a Forage Conference to kick off the Kentucky Cattlemen's Convention. The conference will be January 7 from 9:30 - 11:00 at the Executive Inn West in Louisville. The program committee has selected a 'Grazing' theme and put together three very timely topics. Topics include: The Value of Improved Grazing Management; Putting Forage Species Together for Year-round Grazing; and Dollars and Sense of Intensive Grazing. See you January 7, 9:30 at the Executive Inn West in Louisville.

- 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.

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

MINI-GRAZING SCHOOLS DRAW 100

In keeping with the end of the century, the three mini-grazing schools drew a total of 100 over the three locations of Paducah, Owensboro and Bowling Green. These schools were made possible by a grant from the KY Dept. of Agriculture's Value-Added Program. More mini-grazing schools are planned for April of 2000. We want to thank Billy Ray Smith for his support of these schools.

KFGC PRESIDENT'S CORNER

As we enter a new year, it's a good time to take a look back at the year just ending and a look forward to the new year. KFGC had a good year in 1999. Our membership increased to the largest number we have ever had. This is due to the efforts of many people and an expansion of member benefits. KFGC helped sponsor many educational programs for forage producers in Kentucky:

— The Forage Forum at the KY Cattlemen's

- Conf. in January.
- Annual Alfalfa Conference in March.
- Three-day Grazing School in April in Owenton.
- Three one-day grazing schools in May in Morehead, Springfield and Richmond.
- A Forage Field Day in Eastern Kentucky in May.
- The annual Forage-Beef field day in Crittenden County in June.
- Annual Forage Conference in Lexington in October.
- Three one-day grazing schools in Paducah, Owensboro and Bowling Green in December.

The new year will be just as busy and hopefully, even more productive. KFGC appreciates your support of Kentucky Forages and wishes you a great year in 2000. (*Monroe Rasnake*)

DR. LAURIE LAWRENCE U.K. EQUINE NUTRITIONIST

ANSWERS ALFALFA QUESTIONS

Question: "Is alfalfa too rich for my horse?"

Answer: While alfalfa hay is a more nutrient-rich feed than most other hays, it is not any richer than many other feeds commonly used for horses. For example, the horse's most natural feedstuff, good quality pasture, is often higher in calories and protein than alfalfa hay! When horses graze rapidly cool season grass pasture in the spring and early summer, they are consuming food that contains 18 to 20% crude protein on a dry matter basis! By comparison, mid-maturity alfalfa hay will contain 16 to 18% crude protein on a dry matter basis. For horses that are relatively inactive, and are not growing or lactating, mid to late maturity alfalfa hay will be a more appropriate feed than early maturity alfalfa.

Question: "Will the high level of protein in alfalfa damage my horse's kidneys?"

Answer: Feeding programs based on alfalfa hay often provide protein in excess of a horse's requirement, particularly when large amounts of alfalfa are fed to mature horses at maintenance or light work. However, there is no evidence to suggest that a moderate dietary excess of protein is detrimental to healthy, mature horses. Protein is made up of amino acids which are composed of carbon, hydrogen, oxygen and nitrogen. When horses (or humans!) consume more protein than they need, the carbon, hydrogen and oxygen portion of the amino acids is used for energy and the excess nitrogen is excreted in the urine. Thus it is possible that horses consuming high protein diets will drink more water and urinate more than horses consuming a lower protein diet, but there is no reason to believe that a horse's kidneys will be damaged when this occurs.

(*SOURCE: Extracted from 19th Kentucky Alfalfa Conference*)

FORAGE VARIETY TESTING REPORTS IN PRESS

The 1999 Alfalfa and Red Clover yield reports are

in press as of the end of December. They should be available in extension offices around mid-January (my estimate) and on the UK web site in early January (www.ca.uky.edu) under publications, research, progress reports (scroll down to the bottom of the list).

CHICKWEED AND HENBIT IN PASTURES

Many pastures that were thinned by the drought of 1999 are now being invaded by chickweed and henbit, which are winter annual weeds. What could or should you do about these weeds?

Your first thought might be herbicides such as a 2,4-D and Banvel mixture, but this is expensive and you must have a pretty warm day between here and spring to get activity. According to J.D. Green, UK extension weed specialist, 2,4-D alone is just not going to get these weeds.

So what are some other options. I would like to suggest a few that come to mind. First, consider using chain harrowing or disking in February to rip up these weeds and prepare the ground for a frost seeding of clover.

Second, consider using a paraquat (burn-down) herbicide application in mid to late March in preparation for a no-till seeding of one of several things. If the grass stand is strong, just seed red clover or a mix of red and white clover. If the grass stand is weak, add a grass with the clover. You might consider one of the forage-type perennial ryegrasses as the grass in this mix because of its outstanding seedling vigor and palatability. I would use at least 10 pounds of perennial ryegrass in this case.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- JAN 7 Forages at KCA, Executive Inn-West, Louisville
- FEB 24 20th Kentucky Alfalfa Conference, Cave City
- JUL 16-19 AFGC, Madison, WI
- JUL 20 U.K. All Commodity Field Day, Princeton

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Extension Forage Specialists
January 2000

HAPPY NEW YEAR

