



8-1-1998

Forage News [1998-08]

University of Kentucky Department of Plant and Soil Sciences

Right click to open a feedback form in a new tab to let us know how this document benefits you.

Follow this and additional works at: https://uknowledge.uky.edu/forage_news



Part of the [Plant Sciences Commons](#)

Repository Citation

University of Kentucky Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, "Forage News [1998-08]" (1998). *Forage News*. 235.
https://uknowledge.uky.edu/forage_news/235

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the Plant and Soil Sciences at UKnowledge. It has been accepted for inclusion in Forage News by an authorized administrator of UKnowledge. For more information, please contact UKnowledge@lsv.uky.edu.



FORAGE NEWS

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

FORAGES AT THE STATE FAIR

UK and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture are co-hosting a seminar entitled “Quality Makes the Difference” on Thursday, August 20 and Friday, August 21 in the West Hall of the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center. The program runs from 10:00 to 10:45 AM. The speakers and topics are Garry Lacefield (Factors affecting forage quality), Jimmy Henning (Evaluating and interpreting hay test results), and Allen Johnson (Advantages of hay testing).

LATE SUMMER SEEDING TIPS

Late summer is a great time for establishing cool season forage crops. Both grasses and legumes can be established at this time. The keys to any good forage seeding are a fine, firm seedbed, addressing soil fertility needs, planting the seed in good contact with the soil, and getting this done in a timely fashion.

Late summer and early fall is without a doubt the best time of the year to seed forage grasses. Seeding by early September will help to insure that the grasses will be large enough to withstand the winter cold and the freezing and thawing of the soil. Grasses can be seeded by broadcasting followed by cultipacking, using a Brillion seeder, or by drilling with any drill. Take great care not to seed it deeper than 1/4 to 1/2 inch. When using drills (either grain drills or no-till), it is acceptable to take the drop tubes out of the disc openers and just drop seed on top of the ground if followed by cultipacking the field.

Seedings of red clover and alfalfa can be made in late summer, but pay attention to the following recommendations to maximize chances of success. Soil fertility needs for legumes, especially for pH are higher than for grasses. Soil pH is very important for phosphorus availability and for proper nodulation. Soil pH should be from 6.4 to 7 for good legume establishment.

Sclerotinia crown and stem rot is a serious concern in fall seedings of alfalfa especially, but also red clover. Sclerotinia inoculum comes from any fields that have had clover or alfalfa in them in the past. Areas that have had sclerotinia in the past are at greater risk for this disease. Sclerotinia infection starts in the extended cool wet days of late fall and early winter and typically takes most or all of the stand by next spring. It may only kill circular areas in the field.

The risks of sclerotinia can be minimized by early

planting and moldboard plowing. Early planting allows the alfalfa plant to develop its natural resistance to sclerotinia. While there is no ‘magic date’ to define early planting, getting the alfalfa stand seeded and up by late August will be much better than mid to late September.

Moldboard plowing buries the surface litter, which is where the infectious material for this disease comes from. Discing is acceptable, but moldboard plowing would be better. No-till seedings of alfalfa are not recommended because of the heightened risk of sclerotinia.

There is some varietal resistance to sclerotinia reported from trials at Ohio State University. Specifically, WL332SR and Cimarron 3i both have shown some resistance to sclerotinia in these trials. However, small plot research work by Paul Vincelli at UK and field scale plots conducted by David Herbst in Adair County have shown that this resistance is not enough to withstand a severe outbreak of sclerotinia. The bottom line: Do not depend on varietal resistance to give 100% protection from sclerotinia.

APPLYING MANURE TO FORAGE CROPS

Animal manures can be a good source of nutrients for forage crops in Kentucky. Manures can be applied to forage fields about anytime during the growing season. Also, many hay and pasture fields need the phosphate and potassium contained in manures as well as the nitrogen.

For good utilization of nutrients and reduced risk of environmental problems, some basic guidelines should be followed when applying animal manures:

1. Use application rates calculated to supply the nutrient needs of the crop. Never apply manure at rates higher than needed to supply the nitrogen taken up by the crop.
2. Apply manures close to the time the crop needs the nutrients. For cool season forages, this would be in late winter to early spring and again in late summer to early fall. Mid-spring to early summer would be best for warm season forages.
3. Do not apply manure on frozen or wet soils. Heavy rain could wash manure directly into streams. Also, wet soils can be compacted by the application equipment.
4. Do not spread manure in or near streams, sinkholes or water wells to avoid direct contamination of water.

5. Be aware of potential odor problems for neighbors. Do not apply manures when the wind could carry odors towards neighbors homes. Also, try to avoid applying manures on weekends or holidays.
6. Apply manures soon after a field has been cut for hay or grazed. This reduces the potential for damage to the forage, or problems with grazing animals.
7. Keep accurate records of manure application rates and times. This will document what has been done and help in planning future applications.
8. Maintain a good soil testing program and keep records of nutrient levels in the soil. This is needed to be sure the crop is getting the nutrients it needs and also helps in planning future manure application.

These are general guidelines for using animal waste on forage land. There may be other requirements due to regulations on some kinds of animal waste. Persons using these wastes should check the regulations before making applications. (*Monroe Rasnake*)

PLAN NOW FOR STOCKPILED GRASS FOR FALL

Late July-early August is the time to begin stockpiling for fall and winter use. Remove cattle in late July or early August, apply necessary fertilizer, and allow the grass to accumulate growth until November or December.

During the stockpiling period, August 1 to November 1, other available forages such as sorghum-sudan hybrids, sudangrass, bermudagrass, grass-lespedeza, and grass-clover should be utilized. After frost, alfalfa-grass and clover-grass growth should be grazed first before moving to grass fields.

The best grass for stockpiling in Kentucky are tall fescue and bluegrass. These cool-season grasses will retain their green color and forage quality later into winter. Tall fescue produces more fall and winter growth than bluegrass (Table 1).

Nitrogen lb/a	Bluegrass		Tall Fescue	
	Yield lb/a	CP %	Yield lb/a	CP %
0	700	12.8	1700	11.1
45	1600	15.5	2800	11.8
90	2100	19.1	3900	14.8

A soil test should be taken to determine the phosphorus, potassium, and lime necessary. Nitrogen should be topdressed at the rate of 40 to 60 pounds of actual N per

acre on bluegrass, and 40 to 100 on tall fescue. Kentucky researchers have shown that bluegrass fertilized with 45 lbs of nitrogen per acre had a yield increase of 20 pounds of dry matter for each pound of nitrogen applied when nitrogen was applied August 15 and yields taken December 1. In the same study, tall fescue showed an even greater nitrogen use efficiency with 24.4 pounds of dry matter for each pound of nitrogen applied. Additional studies have shown the greatest response for early application of nitrogen (Table 2). Nitrogen applications before August 1 may encourage the growth of summer grasses such as crabgrass and subsequently reduce the production of bluegrass and tall fescue. Source of nitrogen will influence efficiency. These studies show that urea was approximately 85% as effective as ammonium nitrate on an equivalent nitrogen basis.

Begin grazing stockpiled fields around November 1 and try to remove most available pasture by January 1. Rain and snow after that time will waste remaining pasture in most years. Strip grazing to provide 2 weeks of forage at a time can extend the carrying capacity of stockpiled fields by 35%.

Date N Applied	Nitrogen Efficiency lb DM/ lb N added
August 1	27.2
August 15	25.8
September 1	19.2
October 1	10.8

SOURCE: Murdock, Lloyd W., 1982. Agronomy Notes. Vol. 15, No. 2, April, 1982.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- AUG 20-21 Hay Seminar, KY State Fair, Louisville
- OCT 13-15 Kentucky Grazing School, UKREC, Princeton
- OCT 18-22 American Society of Agronomy, Baltimore, Maryland
- OCT 27-28 KFGC Conference Princeton-Lexington
- NOV 10-12 Alfalfa Intensive Training Seminar, Minneapolis, Minnesota

1999

- MAR 4 19th KY Alfalfa Conference, Cave City
- APR 27-29 Kentucky Grazing School, Eden Shale

Garry D. Lacefield Jimmy C. Henning
Extension Forage Specialists
Forage News, August 1998