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Forage News [1998-01]

University of Kentucky Department of Plant and Soil Sciences

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FORAGE NEWS

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

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

GRAZING CONFERENCE: KICKOFF FOR KCA

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the KCA Convention in Lexington on January 9-10. Again this year, we will have a kick-off "Grazing Emphasis Program". The committee has put together an excellent program which will begin at 9:30 a.m. January 9 at the Holiday Inn North. A proceedings will be provided and there is **NO** additional cost for attending. Look forward to seeing each of you January 9.

Moderator - Dr. Garry Lacefield

- | | | |
|-------|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 9:30 | Welcome | Mr. Larry Jeffries |
| 9:45 | Grazing Management:
Principles and Practices | Dr. Garry Lacefield |
| 10:30 | Selecting Forage Species
& Varieties for Pastures | Dr. Jimmy Henning |
| 11:00 | Developing a Grazing
Program for Your Farm | Mr. Ken Johnson |
| 11:30 | Adjourn to exhibit area | |

KENTUCKY ALFALFA CONFERENCE JOINS NATIONAL IN 1998

The Kentucky Conference will move from its traditional site in Cave City for a joint meeting with the National Alfalfa Symposium. The meetings will be at the *University Plaza Hotel and Convention Center* in Bowling Green on **February 26 and 27**. This will be the 28th National Symposium sponsored by the Certified Alfalfa Seed Council and the second time it has been held in Kentucky. It is the 18th Annual Kentucky Alfalfa Conference which is co-sponsored by the UK Cooperative Extension Service, Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council, Kentucky Department of Agriculture, Western Kentucky University and Natural Resource & Conservation Service.

This year participants will have a chance to hear many speakers from across the US as well as our own Kentucky experts on various topics related to alfalfa production and utilization. If you're serious about alfalfa, this is an opportunity you will not want to miss.

You can save a little money and help us with our planning by registering early (by February 12). Early registration fees are \$35 for one day or \$50 for both days. Registration at the door will be \$40 and \$60.

If you would like a copy of the program and/or registration information, contact your local Cooperative Extension Service Office, or:

Monroe Rasnake, U.K. Research & Education
Center, P. O. Box 469, Princeton, KY 42445-0469,
502-365-7541, Ext. 206.

NATIONAL FORAGE CONFERENCE IN INDIANAPOLIS

The American Forage and Grassland Council Annual Meetings are scheduled for March 8-10, 1998 at the Alamo-Mark Hotel in Indianapolis, Indiana. The highlight of Sunday afternoon March 8 is a tour to farms, agribusinesses and the Indianapolis Zoo. The evening will be a "getting to know you", activity filled event. The Conference theme is "Forages at the Crossroads" in which the environment and some non-traditional uses of forages will be explored along with production and utilization.

For a conference program and information on registration, call the American Forage and Grassland office:

800-944-2342 - Dana Tucker, or,
765-494-4800 - Keith Johnson, Purdue University

This is a good opportunity to attend a national forage conference without having to travel a great distance. (*Monroe Rasnake*)

BENEFITS OF ROTATIONAL GRAZING

Jim Gerrish and I asked 100 grazing research and extension specialists to list the benefits of rotational grazing in a recent national survey. Results are presented in the following table:

What are the benefits to producers who adopt intensive grazing systems?	
Ranking	Benefit
1	Reduced cost
2	Improved production
3	Increased forage availability
4	Higher gain per acre
5	Improved profit
6	Improved carrying capacity
7	Better utilization of forage
8	Improved quality
9	Extend grazing period
10	Improved plant stand life

PERFORMANCE OF POTATO LEAFHOPPER RESISTANCE IN ALFALFA DURING 1997

Potato leafhopper is the insect now causing the greatest economic loss in alfalfa to most Wisconsin farmers. Resistance to this insect has been widely promoted as a major breakthrough for alfalfa. The resistance is due to glandular hairs on the stem that physically inhibit the ability of leafhoppers to reproduce and may exude a substance that kills leafhoppers. David Hogg, entomologist at the University of Wisconsin, has shown that the trait really does work - that potato leafhoppers will fail to reproduce on resistant plant and will eventually die.

However, released potato leafhopper resistant varieties have had mixed success in the field during 1997. Why? First, we need to recognize that we had the highest levels of potato leafhopper during 1997 of any of the last 10 years. This caused significant yield loss in both new seedings and established stands. Our data would indicate that such stress on new seedings may have carryover yield reductions into the next two years.

Second, there is much we do not know about management of the new varieties. Historically, we would have done all the research first and had many answers on release of varieties with new traits, but now, in the rush to get new traits to farmers, much of this information must be developed after the release. We learned this year that 60 percent resistance or more may be necessary for severe potato leafhopper infestations. Most of the varieties released last year are first generation varieties with 20 to 40 percent resistance. The lower resistance will still be helpful in years of lower infestation.

Further, the expression of the resistance may be affected by the environment and not always be present to the same extent.

Lastly, the resistance may be primarily to insect breeding and reproduction and be less effective against the first infestation of adults that come from the south. This may mean that the thresholds for spraying are different, and the number of sprayings are reduced for the season but not eliminated.

Many of the users of resistant varieties experienced some level of potato leafhopper infestations, but still achieved some yield benefits. I believe as we learn more about management of these varieties and gradually develop better germplasm, we will find potato leafhopper resistance an indispensable tool in the production of alfalfa. (SOURCE: Dan Undersander, University of Wisconsin, *The Forager*, Dec, 97.)

LEGUME SEEDING RATES FOR RENOVATING GRASS FIELDS

Mixture Number	Legume(s)	Seeding Rates* lb/ac
1	White Clover	1 - 3
2	Red Clover	6 - 12
3	Annual Lespedeza	15 - 25
4	Alfalfa	12 - 20
5	White Clover and Red Clover	1 - 2 4 - 6
6	Alfalfa and Ladino Clover	8 - 10 ½ - 1
7	Birdsfoot Trefoil	6 - 8

*If seeding is done at the proper time and under good conditions, the lower rates can be used. The higher rates may be needed for broadcast seedings or when conditions are not the best.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JAN 9-10	KCA Convention, Holiday Inn-North, Lexington
FEB 26-27	XVIII Kentucky Alfalfa Conference and 28 th National Alfalfa Symposium, University Plaza Hotel & Convention Center, Bowling Green, KY
MAR 8-10	AFGC, Indianapolis, IN
JUL 16	U.K. College of Agriculture All Commodity Field Day, UKREC, Princeton, KY
JAN 98	Garry D. Lacefield Extension Forage Specialist