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Forage News

Keeping Forage-Livestock producers in Kentucky informed
Dr. S. Ray Smith and Krista Lea, MS.~ Editors

September 2018

KFGC Field Day at Morehead State Farm—Sept. 6

Join the Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council at the Morehead State University farm September 6th. Registration and exhibits open at 4:30, with the program, farm field tour, and meal at 5:15-8:00. Topics and speakers include: 1) Stockpiling tall fescue – Joe Fraley and Chris Teutsch 2) New approaches to alleviate tall fescue toxicosis - Patricia Harrelson and Ray Smith, 3) Making baleage work for your farm - Phil Prater and Jimmy Henning, 4) Dealing with high traffic areas in livestock operations - Steve Higgins and Brent Rogers.

Dinner will be provided by the MSA FFA through our sponsors: Hinton Mills, Southern States, John Deere Equipment, Rose Farm Supply, Conklin Products, KFGC and Morehead State University. Pre-register for this free event by clicking on the event link at the UK Forage Website, visiting 18KFGCFieldDayEast.eventbrite.com or by calling 606-784-5457. Address: 25 MSU Farm Road, Morehead, KY.

Featured Publications: Forage Establishment

Successful livestock production depends on high quality, high yielding forages. Establishment of a good stand is a first and important step in a successful forage program. Several steps that are of vital importance for establishment and maintenance include:

- 1) Match plant to soils and to intended use
- 2) Select high quality seed of an adapted variety
- 3) Supply proper fertility
- 4) Prepare seedbed and inoculate legume seed
- 5) Use proven seeding methods
- 6) Seed at the right time with the correct amount of seed

Find the full publication on our UK Forage website (forages.ca.uky.edu/establishment) or from your local county extension office. If you own horses, then Google "UK Establishing Horse Pastures" for that publication.

Horse Farm Sees Success from Pasture Renovations

A Kentucky Thoroughbred horse farm is reaping the benefits of healthier mares and foals due to pasture renovations they made over the past year with guidance from UK Pasture Evaluation Program. In 2017, Mill Ridge Farm in Lexington experienced significant foaling problems. To Marc Richardson, the farm manager, they appeared to be classic symptoms of fescue toxicity. These issues including multiple foalings that required veterinarians to come out and mares that did not have any milk production."

Under the advisement of the farm's veterinarian Dr.

Forage Timely Tips: September

- ✓ Take soil samples and apply fertilizer as needed.
- ✓ Plant perennial cool season grasses at optimal rate, date, and depth.
- ✓ Harvest hay as needed.
- ✓ Harvest alfalfa by mid-September.
- ✓ Continue harvest of corn silage.
- ✓ Identify weeds and select the appropriate herbicide for the desired control.

Stuart Brown, Richardson contacted UK forage extension specialist Dr. Jimmy Henning and Krista Lea, program coordinator for UK's Horse Pasture Evaluation Program. They took forage samples from pastures frequented by pregnant mares. The samples were analyzed, and the results confirmed that the tall fescue in some of the farm's pastures had high ergovaline levels. Ergovaline is a toxin produced by endophyte-infected tall fescue that affects pregnant broodmares.

The recommendations included completely killing off two fields with the highest ergovaline levels and reseeded them with bluegrass, orchardgrass and a little perennial ryegrass. This meant taking those two fields out of production for almost a year. They removed fescue from other fields using the herbicide Plateau.

The improvements this year were immediate according to Richardson. "This year, we lost no mares or foals. The pasture renovations are what turned our foaling season around." Richardson said the farm plans to renovate one field each year until they remove fescue from all the fields through which pregnant mares rotate.

Horse farm owners and managers who are interested in learning more about pasture evaluation should start with their county extension agent for basic recommendations and help in taking soil samples. They can get more detailed recommendations and samplings through UK's Horse Pasture Evaluation Program. <https://news.ca.uky.edu/article/horse-farm-sees-success-pasture-renovations>

Novel Endophyte Tall Fescue Marketers in KY

Many of you are considering establishing one of the new novel endophyte tall fescue varieties, but may not know where to buy seed. We have compiled a list of dealers in and around Kentucky that carry novel tall

fescue varieties, listed on page 3. Go to the UK Forage Variety Link on our website for information on yield and adaptation of each variety.

Quote of the Month: A Penny Saved is Better Than a Penny Earned.

Benjamin Franklin said, "A penny saved is a penny earned." His point was that money is money regardless of whether it was earned or saved. You can spend it, hide it, invest it or give it away. However, today, a more accurate statement would be, "a penny saved is better than a penny earned." The reason is that we usually pay little or no tax on money saved, but we do pay taxes on money earned. This concept isn't limited to forage-livestock producers, but certainly applies to most of them. Minimizing expenses is a key to having an economically sustainable operation. To purchase a Livestock Quotes and Concepts Book, contact us at ukforageextension@uky.edu.

"On Pasture" Website and Newsletter

If you do not already receive the email newsletter "On Pasture" then sign up today. Simply go to <https://onpasture.com/> to register or to review back issues. This month there is an excellent article interview "Healing Soils With Cover Crops and Cattle." Kaleb Anderson explains how cover crops and grazing have improved his operation. What he likes most is he's adding soil fertility and turning cover crops into cash.

Dealing with High Nitrates in Forage

With dry weather in western KY, be cautious of the potential for nitrate poisoning before grazing or harvesting drought stressed summer annual forages like sorghum-sudan, pearl millet or silage corn. Several management strategies are available to reduce the risk of nitrate poisoning.

- The majority of cases in KY come from cattle eating fertilizer, so store properly and clean spills.
- Avoid grazing warm season grasses fertilized with excess manure or high N rates when growth slows from drought, frost, hail, or herbicide exposure.
- Corn silage should be properly ensiled at least 3 weeks and tested for nitrates before feeding.
- Mix high nitrate forage with forage known to be low.
- Feeding low nitrate forage or hay before turning cattle on to high nitrate forages.
- Splitting grazing times will also allow nitrates to be utilized properly by the rumen microflora.
- Cattle can increase their tolerance to nitrates in their diet with time. Provide time for adaptation.
- To aid in increasing this tolerance, the diet should be sufficient in vitamin A and trace minerals.
- Delay harvest of high nitrate forages until nitrate levels are safe or raise the cutter bar to 18 inches.
- When in doubt, take the time to send samples for nitrate testing before introducing cattle to the pasture.
- Consult your county Extension agent for information on sampling for nitrates, conducting a quick field test, and/or to send samples for testing.

For more information see UK publication "Nitrate Poisoning".

New Crimson Clover Available: Kentucky Pride

Dr. Norm Taylor was the clover breeder at UK for over 50 years. One of his last variety releases was an annual crimson clover named Kentucky Pride. This variety provides many cover crop and forage options that were not available in previous varieties. Kentucky Pride is more winter hardy, later in maturity for more spring grazing, and has better tolerance to poorly drained soils than the long term standard crimson clover Dixie. The best time to plant Crimson clover is early to mid-September to allow establishment before winter, but the majority of production is late March, April and May. Like all annual clovers, it then dies after flowering, but in its short life it is very productive and excellent at fixing N. Farmers in KY can buy Kentucky Pride from:

- The Cisco Companies (Indianapolis, IN; 800-888-2896)
- Turner Seed, (Winchester, KY; 859-737-1234 or Antioch, TN; 615-641-7333)
- Walnut Creek Seeds (Carroll, OH; 330-475-6352)

KY Grazing Conference: Turning Grass into CA\$H:

Plan to attend one of the two locations for our annual KY Grazing Conference. It is being held Oct. 30 at the Christian County Extension Office, 2850 Pembroke Road Hopkinsville, KY (270) 886-6328 and Nov. 1 at the Clark Co Extension Office, 1400 Fortune Drive, Winchester, KY. (859) 744-4682 Topics include:

- Measuring profitability
- Considerations for making a profit with stockers
- Grazing dairies: challenges and opportunities
- Turning grass into CA\$H with small ruminants
- Forage Spokesperson Contest
- Grass finished beef: Production and Marketing
- Keys to optimizing profitability in cow-calf production
- Managing risk in grazing operations

Go to the UK Forage Website to Register Online Starting September 4.

KFGC Field Day Draws 150 from Multiple States

Over 150 producers dodged the rain and lightning at Debby and Toby Dulworth's Farm in Ballard County. This multi-generational farm has developed a natural grass-finished beef business using Hereford cattle selected for producing high quality meat. Producers learned about fencing and summer forage options from on-farm demonstrations of high tensile electric fence construction as well as numerous combinations of summer annuals. The field day was hosted by the Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council and the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment.

Upcoming Events (see website for details and online registration)

SEPT 6 - KFGC Field Day, Morehead State Univ.
SEPT 25-26 - KY Grazing School, Versailles, KY
OCT 30 - KY Grazing Conf. West, Hopkinsville, KY
NOV 1 - KY Grazing Conf. East, Winchester, KY
JAN 6-8 - AFGC Conference, St. Louis, MO
JAN 22-23 - Heart of America Grazing Conf., Indiana
FEB 21 - KY Alfalfa and Stored Forage Conf., Lexington

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www.forages.ca.uky.edu

see blue.

Barenbrug: BarOptima Plus E34

Byron's Seed (Rockville, IN, 765-569-3555)
Caudill Seed Co. (Louisville, 502-583-4402)
Cisco Seeds (Indianapolis, IN, 800-888-2986)
Ramer Seed Supply (Sharon Grove, 270-277-7107)

Pennington: Jesup MaxQII and Texoma MaxQII

Allen county Farmers Service (Scottsville)
Clements Ag (Springfield)
Drakes Farm Service (Morgantown)
Nutrien Ag (Hodgenville, Ekron, Lebanon, Horse Cave)
Pro Ag (Danville)
Ramer Seed (Sharon Grove)
Southern States (Russellville, Owenton, Hopkinsville, Cadiz, Winchester, Flemingsburg, Maysville, Bowling Green, Glasgow)
Versailles Farm and Garden (Versailles)
Warner Fertilizer (Albany, Nancy, Somerset, East Bernstadt, Tompkinsville)
Woodford Feed (Versailles)
Wyatt Seed (Petersburg, IN)

Mountain View Seeds: Estancia w/ ArkShield

Turner Seed (Winchester, 859-737-1234, or Antioch, TN, 615-641-7333)

DLF: Martin 2 Protek and Tower Protek

Bryon Seeds (270-202-9346)
Lewis Seed Company (502-587-1241)
The Cisco Companies (317-357-7013)