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Forage News

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## Forage News [2018-12]

Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, University of Kentucky

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# Forage News

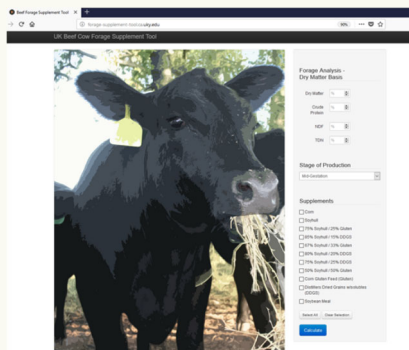
**Keeping Forage-Livestock producers in Kentucky informed**  
**Dr. S. Ray Smith and Krista Lea, MS.~ Editors**

December 2018

## Feeding your 2018 Hay

Ration balancing options are available to beef producers who have a hay test by using a computer program. The UK Beef Cow Forage Supplement Tool (<http://forage-supplement-tool.ca.uky.edu/>) is a simple web-based tool to estimate forage intake and supplementation rates.

To use the tool, producers need to know the quality of the hay to be fed (dry matter, protein, NDF and TDN) and the desired stage of production of the cows. They can choose from among several supplement options and the program calculates the amount to be fed.



The UK Beef Cow Forage Supplement Tool gives quick feeding solutions for available hay choices. Access the program at <http://forage-supplement-tool.ca.uky.edu/>.

feeding program. Actual feed/forage intake and body condition should be monitored throughout the feeding program. Cattle should also have access to a complete mineral supplement and clean drinking water at all times.

The wintering cost is the largest single expense for beef cows. Manage this cost by making sound feeding decisions with your 2018 hay by using the UK Beef Cow Forage Supplement Tool. ~ Dr. Jimmy Henning, Farmers Pride

## Program set for the 38th Annual Kentucky Alfalfa and Stored Forages Conference, Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> in Lexington

This year's theme is "Practical considerations for the Production of High Quality Hay and Baleage". Presentations include Economics of hay production, Hay prices and trends, Update on hay making equipment and technology, Barn considerations for cash hay operations, Evolution of mechanization and transport in my hay operation, and How good is our Kentucky haylage? The event will begin at 8 am at the Fayette County extension

office in Lexington and runs until 3 pm. Preregister online at <https://2019KYAlfalfa.eventbrite.com>.

## Equine Pasture Program Set for Jan. 28th

The annual Pastures Please!! Program will be held at the Mercer County Extension Office on January 28th, beginning at 5:30. Topics include:

- Weedy Grasses in Grazed Pastures, A management Challenge (Dr. J.D. Green)
- Using Seed Coatings and Other Techniques to Improve Pasture Establishment (Dr. Ray Smith)
- How Novel: Safe tall fescue varieties for all classes of horses (Dr. Karen McDowell and Krista Lea)

Light refreshments will be provided. This is a free event and no RSVP is needed.

## Correctly Collect Silage/Forage Samples for Nutrient Analysis

With this year's crop season quickly coming to a close, properly sampling this year's corn silage and other forages and using these results to balance rations should be completed. Remember that forage samples should be taken and analyzed throughout the feeding year, not just in the fall.

If a TMR mixer is used to feed cows, silage should be loaded into the mixer without other ingredients, mixed, and unloaded onto a solid surface. With the palm of your hand facing up, collect multiple samples (at least 10) from various locations of the pile in a clean 5-gallon bucket. (If a TMR is not used and silage is not unloaded from the silo into a pile, silage samples should be collected evenly spaced over the time silage is unloaded

### Forage Timely Tips: December

- ✓ Begin utilizing stockpiled pastures. Graze pastures with orchardgrass and clovers first. Save tall fescue pastures for late winter grazing.
- ✓ Using polywire, strip graze stockpiled pastures to improve Utilization. Start at the water source and allocate enough forage to for 2-3 days. Back fencing is not necessary.
- ✓ Make plans to frost seed red and white clover onto closely grazed tall fescue pastures in February.
- ✓ Some hay can be fed as stockpiled grass is grazed to stretch grass.
- ✓ Begin hay feeding as stockpiled forage is used up.
- ✓ Supplement hay as needed.
- ✓ Minimizing waste by utilizing ring feeders.

from the upright silo with at least 10 to 20 samples collected with your palm facing upwards.) Mix the forage in the bucket with your hand and dump it out on a clean piece of plastic. Spread the silage out into a circle, divide the circle into quarters, and place one quarter in a plastic quart-sized bag. If the sample is too large, repeat the quartering process after mixing the previously quartered sample by bringing one side of the plastic toward the opposite side. Freeze the forage sample if it will not be shipped for a couple of days and ship with a cold pack. Make sure the sample will not be in transit over the weekend to the forage lab. Samples should be kept cool after sampling, i.e. not placed on the dashboard or hot truck cab. ~ Dr. Donna M. Amaral-Phillips

### Renew You KFGC Membership Online

KFGC members can renew their memberships online the entire month of December by visiting <https://KFGC2019.eventbrite.com>. Annual membership includes complimentary membership to the American Forage and Grassland Council and first time KFGC members are entitled to one free forage test through the Kentucky Dept. of Agriculture.

### Featured Publication: Round Bale Hay Storage in Kentucky, AGR-171

Most of the hay produced in Kentucky for feeding livestock is packaged as large round bales. Large package sizes and rapid baling rates minimize labor requirements for baling and transport around the farm (local). However, storage losses of round bales are frequently much greater than those of similar hay in smaller rectangular bales. Most of the increased storage loss for round bales appears to result from storage outside without protection from the weather. Losses during outside storage of twine-tied round bales result from weathering and from moisture movement from the ground into the bale. Weathering is visually associated with a change in color and deterioration of the outer layers of hay following exposure to rainfall, sunlight, and other factors during storage. Weathered hay suffers substantial losses of both yield and forage quality and is much less palatable to livestock than undamaged hay. Download the full publication at [forages.ca.uky.edu/publications](http://forages.ca.uky.edu/publications).

### \*\*New Section\*\* Fencing Tips

*Selecting an energizer.* Energizers are the heart of electric fencing systems and are NOT a component that you should try to "save" money on. A low-cost energizer often costs more in terms future repairs and replacements and possibly loose livestock. If electrical service is available, plug in energizers are considerably more powerful and offer the best value in terms of cost to power ratio. For remote areas, solar or battery powered energizers are viable alternatives for smaller acreages. Power comparisons of energizers should be done using "stored energy" which is measured in joules. ~ Dr. Chris Teutsch

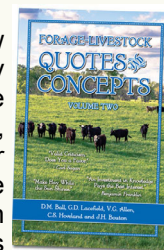
### 2018 Forage Variety Trials Available

The UK Forage Variety Testing Program conducts numerous studies on growth, grazing tolerance, and survival of forage grass and legume varieties. A select number of these reports for 2018 are now available on the forage website. All reports are

expected to be completed by the first of the year.

**Quote of the Month:** "The World Hates Change, Yet It is the Only Thing that has brought Progress" ~ Charles Kettering

Change, such as adopting a new method of grazing management or hay storage, replanting fields with new forage species/varieties or buying a new herd bull, is often painful and causes uncertainty for forage-livestock producers. Will the additional costs pay off? Careful evaluation of the impact of a possible change is required, of course, but progress can only come with decisions that bring change. Forage-Livestock Quotes and Concepts, vol. 2 is available online at [foragequotebook.com](http://foragequotebook.com).



### Heart of America Grazing Conference Comes to Indiana, January 22-23, 2019

FERDINAND, IN – Producers interested in improving their grazing management or looking to start a grass-finished beef enterprise should consider attending the Heart of America Grazing Conference January 22 and 23 to hear from leaders in the grazing industry including: Jason Tower, Dr. Scott Barao, Dr. R.P. Cooke, Dr. Dennis Fennewald, Dr. Scott Flynn, Dr. Grant Burcham, and Dr. Ray Smith

The Indiana Forage Council is organizing the 2019 conference. The Heart of America Grazing Conference is an annual event that moves around the Midwest. The host site for the conference is the Ferdinand Community Center in Ferdinand, Indiana. Registration for the event will be \$90 if registration is complete by December 31, 2018. Prices increase after this date. Registration information is available at [www.indianaforage.org](http://www.indianaforage.org). According to Dr. Keith Johnson, "The Heart of America Grazing Conference is a great opportunity for all forage-livestock producers. This multi-state educational event brings individuals from farms, agribusinesses and education/service providers together to network with one another about how to improve grazing management systems." ~ Jason Tower, Indiana Forage Council

### 2018 KY Grazing Conference Recap

All presentations from the 2018 Kentucky Grazing Conferences are now available on the KY Forages YouTube Channel on the playlist "Turning Grass into CASH: Opportunities in Grassland Agriculture" or click on the YouTube link on the forage website. The proceedings are also available on the forages website at the bottom of the home page under archives and KY Grazing Conf.

### Upcoming Events (see website for details and online registration)

JAN 6-8 - AFGC Conference, St. Louis, MO  
JAN 18 - Forages at KCA, Owensboro KY  
JAN 22-23 - Heart of America Graz. Conf., Ferdinand, IN  
FEB 21 - Alfalfa & Stored Forage Conf., Lexington, KY  
FEB 23 - Small Ruminant Grazing Conf., Morehead, KY  
MAR 20 - Novel Tall Fescue Workshop, Princeton, KY

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