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Forage News

Plant and Soil Sciences

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Forage News

Keeping Forage-Livestock Producers in Kentucky Informed

Dr. Jimmy Henning and Krista Lea, editors

October 2020

This month's newsletter was mailed with the gracious support of:

Ramer Seed Supply—Your source for high quality forage seeds. Call (270) 277-7107 or (270) 604-4360.



If you would like to receive this newsletter via email, please visit: <https://kyforagenews.com/sign-up/>

Agenda Set for 2020 Kentucky Grazing Conference

This year's Kentucky Grazing Conference will be held virtually in three sessions from 6-8pm on October 27, 28 and 29th with a theme of Adapting to Change: Designing Resilient Forage-Livestock Systems. Presentations include:

October 27

- Managing Soil Fertility in Uncertain Times—Jimmy Henning
- Selecting Forage Species for a Changing Environment—Jesse Ramer
- Managing Risk in Forage-Livestock Enterprises—Kenny Burdine

October 28

- ****Keynote Speaker**** *Selecting and Managing Livestock for Changing Conditions—Johnny Rogers, Producer, NCSU Amazing Grazing Coordinator and Past President of the Red Angus Association*
- Forage Spokesperson Contest

October 29

- Using What the Good Lord Gave Us—Chris Teutsch
- USDA-ARS Forage-Livestock Research Update—Brittany Harlow
- Fifty Years of Change: Observation of an Old Geezer—Bill Payne

For more information or to register, visit <https://forages.ca.uky.edu/event/kentucky-grazing-conference-virtual>

Results from 600 Hay Samples: What They Tell Us and What They Don't

Last fall we analyzed almost 600 hay samples as part of the Eastern Kentucky Hay Contest. Here is a summary of what we found:

- Crude protein (3.2 to 21.7%) and total digestible nutrients (41.8 to 68.3%) varied widely
- 9% of the hay samples contained less than 50% TDN
- 22% of the hay samples contained less than 8% crude protein

- Only 85 samples or 14% contained enough energy to meet the requirements of a beef cow at peak lactation
- Only 248 samples or 42% would meet the protein requirements of a beef cow at peak lactation
- 459 samples or 78% contained enough protein to meet the needs of a dry pregnant cow
- 539 samples or 91% contained enough energy to meet the requirements of a dry pregnant cow

So, what does all of this tell us? The results of these 600 samples tells us that if you are feeding hay to lactating cows, you will likely need to provide some type of supplement to keep cows from losing condition, especially first calf heifers that are trying to grow and feed a calf.

So, don't these results tell us? Since there was such wide variation in both crude protein and energy for the hay samples in this dataset, no recommendations can be made on what or how much to supplement. To make this type of recommendation, you will need to sample the hay by lots (one cutting from one field) that you will be feeding (see last month's article in the Cow Country News). Once you have the results in hand, then a supplementation program can be designed by either working your local extension agent or veterinarian or by using the UK Beef Cow Forage Supplementation Tool, found at <http://forage-supplement-tool.ca.uky.edu/>.

It is important to realize that both hay testing and the UK Beef Cow Forage Supplement Tool are NOT perfect. They are designed to get you in the ballpark and let you know if there is going to be a real problem with the hay that you are feeding. The true test is how your cows perform on a given hay lot. If you need help with hay sampling or interpreting your hay testing results, make sure and contact your local extension agent.

Forage testing is available from a number of commercial labs and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture. More information on this program can be found at <http://www.kyagr.com/marketing/forage-program.html>. Make sure and use a lab that has been certified for accuracy and precision by the National Forage Testing Association. A list of certified labs can be found at NFTA Certified Labs.

UK to Host Two Regional Fencing Schools this Fall

The University of Kentucky will host two regional fencing schools this fall to help livestock producers learn about the newest fencing techniques and sound fence

construction.

The schools are Oct. 13 at the Wolfe County Extension office in Campton and Oct. 15 at the Barren County Extension office in Glasgow. Each day will begin with registration at 7:30 a.m. local time and end around 4:30 p.m.

Chris Teutsch, UK forage extension specialist, started these one-day events in 2018 to help producers improve their grazing management.

"If you have ever driven around the countryside, there are a lot of fences but not a lot of well-constructed ones," said Teutsch, a faculty member in the UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. "One of the goals of this school is to help people get the basics of fencing down. That way they can build a strong, durable fence that will last 25 or 30 years, or if they decide to hire a contractor to build it for them, they'll at least know what a well-constructed fence looks like."

Through a mixture of classroom instruction and hands-on demonstrations, UK specialists and fencing industry experts will teach producers the basics of a well-built fence. An added bonus of the school is that the techniques producers learn can help them with cost-share dollars from the Natural Resources Conservation Service for new fence construction.

Each school is limited to 30 participants, and the cost is \$30 per person. Participants can register online at <https://forages.ca.uky.edu/> or by emailing the registration form and payment to Carrie Tarr-Janes, UK Research and Education Center, 348 University Drive, Princeton, KY, 42445. In addition to online registration, registration forms are available at local offices of the UK Cooperative Extension Service.

Producers are encouraged to register early, as spots will fill quickly. The registration deadline for each location is two weeks prior to the workshop occurring.

The Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council, UK Cooperative Extension Service and the Master Grazer Program organize and sponsor the schools along with their industry partners, Gallagher USA, Stay-Tuff Fencing and ACI Distributors.

Alfalfa Included in Second Round of Coronavirus Food Assistance Program

Alfalfa has been included in USDA's latest expansion of the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program. Recently, USDA announced an additional \$14 billion for farmers who continue to face market disruptions and associated costs because of COVID-19.

The Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2 (CFAP 2) provides farmers of eligible commodities with financial assistance that gives them the ability to absorb some of the increased marketing costs associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Forage Timely Tips: October

- ✓ Feed hay to allow cool-season pastures to accumulate forage growth for winter grazing.
- ✓ Do NOT harvest or graze alfalfa fields.
- ✓ Inventory and test each hay lot for nutritive value and consult a nutritionist to design a supplementation program as needed.
- ✓ Remove ruminants from pastures that contain sorghum species (forage sorghums, sorghum-sudangrass hybrids, sudangrass, and johnsongrass) when frost is expected. Even small patches of johnsongrass that have been frost can cause prussic acid poisoning.
- ✓ Begin strip grazing early planted small grain and brassicas (turnips and rape) mixes by the end of this month.

A list of CFAP 2 eligible commodities can be found by clicking [here](#). Alfalfa is included under the "Flat-Rate Crops" category which includes crops eligible for a \$15/acre payment for all acres certified to that commodity for 2020.

USDA's Farm Service Agency will accept CFAP 2 applications from September 21 through December 11, 2020. Information on how to apply for CFAP 2 funding can be found at <https://www.farmers.gov/cfap/commodities>.

Farm Service Agency staff at local USDA Service Centers will work with farmers to file CFAP 2 applications. Farmers can also call 877-508-8364 to speak directly with a USDA employee ready to offer assistance at the CFAP call center. Visit [farmers.gov/cfap](https://www.farmers.gov/cfap) for additional information on CFAP 2 eligibility, payment limitations, structure, and how to apply.

Pub of the Month: Time Lapse Growth Videos

We have just posted nine short time-lapse videos illustrating a number of forage management practices including importance of seeding depth, impact of winter pasture management, rotational stocking, and relative seedling vigor of different forage species. I would like to thank Gabriel Roberts, a member of our forage extension group, for all of his hard work in capturing these time-lapse videos!

The Playlist for these videos can be found on the KY Forages YouTube Channel.

Upcoming Events (see website for details)

OCT 16—Pasture Walk with Greg Brann, Adolphus, KY
OCT 27,28,29—KY Grazing Conferences, Online
FEB 25—Alfalfa and Stored Forages Conference, Bowling Green, KY

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