

UK Horse Pasture Evaluation Program

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Strategic Goals:

- ✓ Analysis of Pasture Management Practices
- ✓ Reducing Feed Cost with Improved Pasture
- ✓ Assessing Tall Fescue Toxicity Risks for Broodmares

The UK Horse Pasture Evaluation Program, a program of the UK Equine Initiative, continues to develop stronger ties with Kentucky's equine industry in the areas of research, extension and teaching. The Pasture Evaluation Program has been going strong since 2005 conducting over 100 evaluations and covering over 16,000 total farm acres. The three main objectives are ¹⁾ to provide detailed pasture management recommendations to horse farm owners and managers, ²⁾ help improve Kentucky's pastureland to provide more quantity and better quality feed in our pastures to reduce feed cost in the form of hay ³⁾ and evaluate tall fescue within pastures and assess its potential to cause fescue toxicity in pregnant broodmares.

"We think the Pasture Evaluation Program is a great asset to Kentucky's Horse Industry! The team's promptness in coming to the farm, astute observations, and detailed recommendations has helped us tremendously! It was only days after our follow up meeting that we started rehabilitating our paddocks and fields. We simply took the recommendations to a local farm supply store and they put together everything we needed - as simple and clear as that! I know I will be referring to the notebook as the farm's Bible!!"

—Previous Program Participant.

Due to the program's tremendous success, we are pleased to continue an *expanded pasture evaluation program*, which offers *two service packages*: the **Complete Evaluation Option** and the **Small Farm Option** for horse farms in the **entire state of Kentucky** in 2011. If interested in this year's program, please complete and submit the attached enrollment form. Farms will be contacted in the order they are received. We look forward to the 2012 program and plan to continue expanding the available services in upcoming years.



Farm Enrollment:

Simply fill out the enclosed enrollment form and fax or mail to Dr. Ray Smith (See Enrollment Form for address). You may also email the requested information to Tom.Keene@uky.edu or krista.cotten@uky.edu. If you have any questions concerning the program, please call Tom Keene at 859-257-3144 or Dr. Ray Smith at 859-257-3358 or visit the UK Forage Website at <http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage/HorseLinks.htm>. Following enrollment, an initial visit will be scheduled at your farm to explain the complete details of the evaluation program and to personally address any questions before the actual sampling date. The Complete Evaluation Service Package *includes up to 6 paddocks per farm, but no more than 80 acres*. The Small Farm Service Package *includes up to 4 paddocks per farm, but no more than 25 acres*.

Pasture Evaluation Program Timetable:

The 2012 pasture evaluation program will begin in April and end in October. Applications are accepted throughout the year.

Complete Service Package:

6 paddocks or 80 acres

\$600 Base Price

\$500 for Previous Program Participants

- Assessment of pasture species composition
 - ✓ Tall Fescue
 - ✓ Kentucky Bluegrass
 - ✓ Orchardgrass
 - ✓ White Clover
 - ✓ Weeds (species identified)
 - ✓ Bare Soil
- Percent of tall fescue plants infected with fungal endophyte
- Concentration of ergovaline (toxin) in tall fescue at date of sampling
- Estimate of ergovaline intake for horses grazing each paddock
- Parasite soil management and reducing parasite load techniques
- Comprehensive soil map of entire farm
 - Carrying capacity based on each soil type present on farm
 - Recommended number of acres per horse per year for each soil type present on farm
 - Explanation of soils on farm with total acres of each type
- We will link you with your county agent to provide consultation for soil sampling and analysis
- Satellite photograph of your farm and individual paddocks
- GPS map of each evaluated paddock with specified locations of sampled areas, a useful tool for tracking improvements in pasture management
- Printed digital photographs of all individual sampling areas of each pasture
- “Pasture and Paddock Action Log” for record keeping of each pasture
- General guidelines on management of pastures, including options for: weed control, soil fertility, grazing management, pasture renovation and reestablishment, grass species and variety choices, tall fescue management, interpreting ergovaline levels, and options for removal of tall fescue on Central Kentucky pastures
- CD ROM containing all data, photographs, analysis, and an electronic version of “Pasture and Paddock Action Log” in Microsoft Excel
- Complete set of University of Kentucky extension publications related to horse pastures and selected national and international publications
- ★ Survey ★ of the farm evaluation. Your input, suggestions and ideas are vital for our program as we try to make it as beneficial as possible and expand services in upcoming years.



Final delivery of comprehensive report:

A personal follow-up consultation will be scheduled with forage experts from UK, lasting approximately one hour, to interpret and explain all of the information gathered for your farm. This is an opportunity to discuss your farm's pasture management in detail.

Additional options:

Whole farm service or additional fields.

If you would like more than 6 fields or 80 acres sampled, we will do so for **\$10 per acre**.

Follow-up ergovaline measurements.

We will re-sample your fields at a later date and report the ergovaline levels for **\$60 per field**.

Small Farm Service Package: 4 paddocks or 25 acres

\$250

- Assessment of pasture species composition
 - ✓ Tall Fescue
 - ✓ Kentucky Bluegrass
 - ✓ Orchardgrass
 - ✓ White Clover
 - ✓ Weeds (species identified)
 - ✓ Bare Soil
- Comprehensive soil map of entire farm
 - Carrying capacity based on each soil type present on farm
 - Recommended number of acres per horse per year for each soil type present on farm
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Additional options:

- Evaluation of the percentage of tall fescue plants infected with fungal endophyte.
We will collect tall fescue tiller samples throughout the requested pasture(s) and conduct laboratory analysis to determine the fungal endophyte infection level. We will conduct this analysis for **\$40 per field**.

UK Horse Pasture Evaluation Program Enrollment Form - 2012

Please Check the Box of the Appropriate Service Package:

Complete Evaluation Service Package

Small Farm Option Service Package

Date: _____

Farm Name: _____

Farm Owner: _____

Farm Manager: _____

Contact Person: _____

Phone: _____ **Office:** _____

Cell: _____

FAX: _____

Email: _____

Total Acreage of Farm: _____

County: _____

Physical Address of the farm:

Mailing Address:

Have you or do you plan to register your farm for the Kentucky Proud Program? Yes No

Fields to be sampled:

	Field Name/Number	Acres		Field Name/Number	Acres
1			6		
2			7		
3			8		
4			9		
5			10		

Initial visit to be scheduled upon receipt of this form.

Additional Options for Complete Evaluation Service Package:

- Additional fields/acres (list above), \$10/acre
- Follow-up ergovaline measurements, \$60 per field

Additional Options for Small Farm Service Package:

- Tall fescue fungal endophyte infection level, \$40 per field

If possible, please include a farm map with the enrollment form.

Mail this form to:

Dr. Ray Smith
N222-E Ag Sci Center North Bld
University of Kentucky
Lexington, KY 40546-0091

or FAX to:
(859) 323-1952
(ATTN: Dr. Ray Smith)