

FORAGE NEWS

For more forage information, visit our UK Forage Extension Website at: <http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage>

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Garry D. Lacefield and S. Ray Smith, Extension Forage Specialists • Christi Forsythe, Secretary

UK ALL COMMODITY FIELD DAY

Over 2000 people from throughout Kentucky and at least 10 other states attended and participated in the UK All Commodity Field Day in Princeton on July 26. Tours, demonstrations, exhibits, and workshops highlighted the days program. Approximately 217 took the Forage Tour which was one of 11 offered continuously throughout the day.

8TH KENTUCKY GRAZING CONFERENCE

The 8th Kentucky Grazing Conference will be held on October 30, 2007 at the Western Kentucky University Expo Center. The schedule for the day is as follows:

- 8:00 Registration, Visit Exhibits, Silent Auction
- 8:45 Welcome
- 9:00 Recovering from the "Freeze" and "Drought" of 2007 – *Ray Smith*
- 9:20 Does Grazing Method Matter? – *Garry Lacefield*
- 9:40 Options for Summer Grazing – *David Ditsch*
- 10:00 Break, Visit Exhibits, Silent Auction
- 10:30 Our Experience With "Teff" (Summer Love Grass) in Kentucky – *Bob Jaynes & Tim Phillips*
- 11:00 Techniques for Reducing MUD Problems and Improving Pasture Abused Areas – *Ken Johnson*
- 11:30 NRCS and Extension – Working Together on Grazing – *Jimmy Henning & Mike Hubbs*
- 12:00 Lunch
- 12:45 KFGC Business Meeting / KFGC Awards / Silent Auction Results
- 1:15 Forage Spokesman Contest
- 3:00 Adjourn

The registration fee will be \$15.00 as in the past with students paying \$5.00. A proceedings and other materials will be available. There will be CCA credits available also. See our Forage Website www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage for more details. Hope to see you there!

HAY HOTLINE HELPS FARMERS IN SEARCH OF FORAGE

Kentucky livestock producers in need of hay can call the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's toll-free Hay Hotline to find farmers with hay to sell.

The Hay Hotline number is 1-888-567-9589. Growers with hay to sell also may call the number. Producers who call the number to buy or sell will be listed on the Hay Hotline page on the Department's Web site, www.kyagr.com.

"These services could make the difference between holding on to livestock or having to sell," Agriculture Commissioner Richie Farmer said. "The early April freeze and the recent drought together have greatly reduced Kentucky's hay supply. The Kentucky Department of Agriculture will do whatever we can to help farmers ride out this dry spell."

The Department maintains a permanent online hay directory that lists hay for sale by county, relative feed value, bale size and type. The

hay that is listed on the directory is tested for nutritional value. The Department performs the tests at a cost of \$10 per sample.

The University of Kentucky has estimated forage losses in Kentucky due to the freeze and the drought at \$45 million. Yields of first cuttings averaged about 50 percent of normal, according to UK.

Tom Keene, hay specialist with the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, said some pastures have recovered slightly as more rain has fallen over much of the state in July, but there will be an ongoing need for forages until next spring. "It's going to be a real challenge for producers to stretch their hay until we can make a new crop," he said.

Keene said producers have numerous tools at their disposal to acquire hay and make it last, such as utilizing the Hay Hotline, storing hay properly and having hay tested. He said the Hay Hotline will be a "work in progress" with new features added over time.

To get to the Hay Hotline Web page, go to www.kyagr.com; click on the Programs menu at the top of the page, and click on Hay Hotline. To access the KDA's hay directory, go to www.kyagr.com; click on the Programs menu, and click on Hay for Sale (tested).

For forage information from the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, go to www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage/. (SOURCE: News Release from the KY Department of Agriculture July 16, 2007)

BEWARE OF HAY PAYMENT SCAM

North Carolina hay growers have notified the North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (NCDA&CS) about a possible scam connected to hay payments. Posing as a hay buyer, the scammer sends a fake cashier's check, made out for several thousand dollars more than the agreed-upon selling price, as payment for hay. Then the buyer claims he made a mistake and asks the seller to wire the difference back to him. The victim deposits the check and the bank credits his account. He assumes the check has cleared and wires the requested funds. But the check bounces, and the bank reduces his account by the wired amount, sometimes cleaning out the account and leaving a negative balance.

"We felt we should at least let our growers know that the problem was out there," says Brian Long of NCDA&CS. "A number of North Carolina farmers were contacted, but most figured out that something wasn't quite right. It's sort of like the hay version of some email scams." According to Long, there are several ways to spot a scam:

Communication from the buyer usually has multiple misspellings, poor grammar and typically looks like a form letter. A scammer will typically send a 'check' to the seller and pressure him to deposit it quickly and send the refund. These scams most often originate overseas, but accomplices may be located in the U.S. "We do encourage our growers who might be selling hay through the Internet or by phone to check up on the buyer any way they can," says Long.

The NCDA&CS Web site is a place for hay buyers and sellers to connect. "We try to match people who need hay with those who have hay to offer by providing the online meeting place," says Long. "Then it is up to the buyers and sellers to negotiate." Hay ads are free and out-of-state ads are welcome.

Long says the site has been particularly helpful this summer because it hasn't been a good one for hay production in North

Carolina. Like in much of the South, the state's growers were hurt by the Easter weekend freeze. "What started with the impact of the late freeze has been compounded by dry conditions throughout the state," Long says. "We have a lot of animal agriculture in the state and a lot of animals that depend on forage crops. The dry weather is making many farmers nervous." While the whole state is dry, western counties have been especially hard hit.

Visit the NCDA&CS Web site at www.ncagr.com/HayAlert/index.htm. Contact Long at 919-733-4216. (SOURCE: e-Hay Weekly, July 17, 2007)

JUDGE AMENDS ROUNDUP READY ALFALFA RULING

Roundup Ready alfalfa hay doesn't have to be stored in containers, and must be labeled only if it leaves the farm where it was grown. Equipment must be cleaned after harvesting the transgenic crop, but farmers and custom harvesters don't have to submit their cleaning procedures to USDA for approval. Those are the main points in a court order issued last week by Charles Breyer, the northern California district court judge who in May issued a permanent injunction against the sale and planting of Roundup Ready alfalfa. In the new ruling, he made several changes to provisions of the judgment that deal with preventing contamination of organic and conventional alfalfa with Roundup Ready alfalfa.

Breyer admitted that he erred in his earlier judgment when he ruled that Roundup Ready alfalfa must be stored in clearly labeled containers. That, he wrote last week, should apply to Roundup Ready seed but not hay. To ensure that equipment is properly cleaned after handling Roundup Ready alfalfa, the judge initially ruled that every grower had to submit his proposed cleaning procedures to USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) for approval. In lieu of that requirement, the amended ruling orders APHIS to publish and distribute, by July 13, a best practices guide for cleaning farm equipment.

The June 27 court order also softens the judge's earlier demand that Monsanto and Forage Genetics International provide the government with the acreage and location of all Roundup Ready alfalfa seed and hay fields by a specified date. Finally, it removes the requirement that the location of those fields be "publicly disclosed" on a government Web site. Instead, locations of Roundup Ready fields will be made available to farmers who request them. (SOURCE: e-Hay Weekly, July 3, 2007)

CORN ACRES SOAR, SOY ACRES PLUNGE

USDA stunned the grain and soybean trade last Friday morning by pegging U.S. corn plantings well above expectations at nearly 93 million acres and putting soybean planted acres well below expectations at just over 64 million.

The soybean acreage figure looks extremely bullish for soybean prices, while the corn market should feel a negative impact from the huge corn acreage figure.

USDA pegged U.S. corn plantings at 92.888 million acres, versus trade estimates averaging 90.585 million acres in a range from 89.25-91.704 million acres.

USDA's corn acreage figure represents a 2.7% increase from the March planting intentions of 90.454 million acres and an 18.6% increase over last year's plantings of 78.327 million acres. Planted acreage is the highest since 1944.

USDA pegged U.S. soybean plantings at 64.081 million acres, compared with trade estimates averaging 67.838 million acres in a range from 66.0-69.0 million.

The USDA soybean acreage figure represents a 4.6% drop from the March planting intentions of 67.14 million acres and a 15.1% drop from last year's plantings of 75.522 million acres. Planted acreage is the lowest since 1995, when producers planted only 62.495 million acres of soybeans.

Wheat prices may find further support from USDA's estimate of U.S. spring wheat plantings. USDA pegged "other" spring wheat plantings at 13.144 million acres, well below trade expectations, which averaged 13.835 million acres, and 5.1% below planting intentions, which were reported at 13.808 million acres back in March. Spring wheat acres are down 11.8% from last year.

Durum plantings came in higher than expected at 2.225 million acres, compared with trade estimates averaging 1.996 million acres and the March intentions of 1.990 million acres.

Total spring wheat/durum acres still came in 462,000 below the March intentions and 1.4 million acres below last year's plantings.

The cotton market also saw bullish acreage news from USDA, as the acreage pegged upland cotton plantings at 10.76 million acres

against trade expectations averaging 11.56 million acres. The cotton plantings figure was down 11.4% from the March intentions figure of 12.15 million acres and 29.5% from last year's plantings of 15.27 million acres. (SOURCE: e-Hay Weekly, July 3, 2007)

RELATIVE FEED VALUE (RFV) AND RELATIVE FORAGE QUALITY (RFQ)

Relative Feed Value (RFV) and Relative Forage Quality (RFQ) are methods used to evaluate hay quality. To calculate RFV it is necessary to have a forage analysis for acid detergent fiber (ADF) and neutral detergent fiber (NDF). Protein is not considered but higher RFV values are usually associated with higher protein. The ADF analysis is used to predict the digestible dry matter = $(88.9 - (.779 * \% \text{ ADF}))$ and NDF calculated by multiplying digestible dry matter by dry matter intake and then dividing by 1.29 (the expected digestible dry matter intake as % of body weight for full-bloom alfalfa. The RFV for full-bloom alfalfa would be expected to be 100. For an alfalfa hay containing 29% ADF and 36% NDF the $\text{RFV} = (66.3 * 3.3/1.29 = 170)$. Grasses typically have higher ADF and NDF concentrations and consequently have lower RFV than legumes. For instance a grass or mixed grass/legume hay having 32% ADF and 50% NDF would have an $\text{RFV} = (64 * 2.4)/1.29 = 119$. Note that grasses and corn silage have a greater NDF:ADF ratio than legumes. However, the RFV calculation does not account for digestibility of the fiber.

	ADF %	NDF %	NDF:ADF	RFV
Alfalfa A (mature)	40	51	1.28	105
Alfalfa B (immature)	29	36	1.24	170
Grass	32	50	1.56	119

Relative Forage Quality (RFQ) Index is similar to RFV except NDF digestibility is used. NDF digestibility allows for a more precise estimate of the energy in the feed and many laboratories are offering an in vitro NDF digestibility to account for fiber digestion. Grasses typically have fiber digestibility's greater than legumes because legumes have more lignin associated with the fiber. Legumes make up for this by having more cell contents (non-NDF material) that are highly digestible thus elevating energy concentrations to higher levels than in grasses. When using RFV or RFQ it is best to compare hays that are within a similar classification such as alfalfa, grass, or mixed. RFQ gives more credit for digestible fiber in grasses and grasses will typically have higher RFQ than RFV but will still be less than many legumes. (Source: Charles Stallings, Virginia Tech. Univ. IN Pennsylvania Forage & Grassland News, Vol. 17, #3, Summer 2007)

KFGC AWARDS

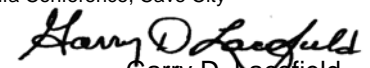
Award nominations are now being accepted for KFGC Producer, Industry, Public Service-State, and Public Service-County Awards. To nominate a deserving individual, send a one-page nomination to Dr. Garry Lacefield, P.O. Box 469, Princeton, KY 42445, FAX: 270-365-2667 or e-mail: glacefie@uky.edu. Awards will be presented at the 8th Kentucky Grazing Conference October 30 at the WKU Expo Center in Bowling Green. For a history of KFGC Award recipients, see our website at: <http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage/KFGC%20Award%20Winners%20History.pdf>

FORAGE SPOKESMAN NOMINATIONS

Forage Spokesman Nominations are now being accepted. To nominate a producer to compete in the KFGC Forage Spokesman contest, send name, address, and a 100 word or less description of their forage-livestock operation to Dr. Ray Smith, Plant and Soil Science Dept., 105 Plant Science Bldg., 1405 Veterans Road, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40546-0312 or e-mail raysmith1@uky.edu. Any Kentucky forage producer is eligible to compete. Only five producers will be selected to compete in the contest to be held at the Kentucky Grazing Conference at the WKU Expo Center in Bowling Green October 30. Contestants will be given 12 minutes to tell their forage story with 3 minutes for introduction and questions. The winner will represent Kentucky at the AFGC National competition.

UPCOMING EVENTS

OCT 30	8 th Kentucky Grazing Conference, WKU Expo Center, Bowling Green
2008	
JAN 7-8	Heart of America Grazing Conference, Columbia, MO
JAN 26-FEB 1	SRM/AFGC Forage Conference, Louisville
FEB 21	28 th Kentucky Alfalfa Conference, Cave City


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