



# FORAGE NEWS

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

**December 2007**

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



## HEART OF AMERICA GRAZING CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN MISSOURI

The HOAGC (held in Kentucky every five years) will be in Columbia, Missouri January 7-8. Chairman Mark Kennedy and the committee have put together a great conference. For details about the conference program, registration and lodging, see our website [www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage/HOAGC\\_brochure08b.pdf](http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage/HOAGC_brochure08b.pdf)

## FORAGE PRODUCERS TO BE FEATURED AT KCA

Our "Forages at KCA" program will be Friday, January 11, 2008 from 2:00 – 4:30 during the KCA Convention in Lexington. Our featured speakers are Lowell Clifford, Jason Sandefur, Russell Hackley and Todd Clark.

### Forages at KCA

Friday, January 11, 2008  
Lexington Convention Center  
Elkhorn B & C  
Lexington, Kentucky  
Kentucky Forages

2:00 p.m. Welcome  
2:10 Kentucky's Forage Resources – Garry Lacefield  
**Making Forages Work Down on the Farm**  
2:30 Lowell Clifford – Beef – Harrison County  
3:00 Jason Sandefur – Beef – Bourbon County  
3:30 Russell Hackley – Beef – Grayson County  
4:00 Todd Clark – Beef/Hay – Fayette County  
4:30 Discussion

## SRM/AFGC IN LOUISVILLE

The SRM/AFGC National Conference will be at the Galt House in Louisville January 26-31, 2008. This will be the largest forage-related meeting in Kentucky since the International Grassland Conference. For more information, see our website [http://www.rangelands.org/louisville2008/louisville2008\\_index.shtml](http://www.rangelands.org/louisville2008/louisville2008_index.shtml)

## PANORAMIC 2SL REGISTERED FOR WEED CONTROL IN PASTURES

A new herbicide for pasture weed control was registered for use in Kentucky. Panoramic 2SL contains the active ingredient imazapic. Panoramic 2SL can be used in pastures, rangeland, non-crop areas, and establishment of native prairie sites. The active ingredient, imazapic, is also sold as Plateau.

Wording on the Panoramic 2SL and Plateau label are similar but read and follow directions on the specific product. Panoramic

2SL and Plateau are formulated as ammonium salt and contain 2.0 lbs of the free imazapic acid per gallon.

Panoramic 2SL and Plateau are registered in Kentucky for pastures and the rate to control tall fescue in Kentucky bluegrass pastures is from 10 to 12 ounces per acre. Panoramic 2SL is available for purchase by individuals while Plateau can be purchased only by governmental agencies. Panoramic 2SL is distributed by Alligare, LLC and is available from agricultural supply stores that handle pasture herbicides. (SOURCE: W. W. Witt, University of Kentucky, Department of Plant and Soil Sciences. November 15, 2007)

## HAY - 2007

**All hay** production was forecast at 3.73 million tons, down 24 percent from the August estimate and 41 percent from 2006. **Alfalfa hay** was forecast at 432,000 tons, down 108,000 tons from August and 604,000 tons from a year ago. Yield was estimated at 1.60 tons per acre, the lowest yield since 1936. **Other hay** production was forecast 3.30 million tons, down 25 percent from August and 37 percent from 2006. Yield per acre was estimated at 1.50 tons. Hay yields were reduced this summer by the hot, dry conditions Kentucky experienced. Farmers are baling about anything to provide feed for their cattle during the coming winter months. (SOURCE: Kentucky Agri-News, Vol. 26, No. 20, October 15, 2007)

## ENERGY SAVINGS WITH NEW LIGHT BULBS

Lighting consumes 22 percent of U.S. electricity and the traditional incandescent bulb is a leading energy waster. California and Canada are banning incandescent bulb sales by 2012 and the U.S. Senate is looking at a nationwide ban over 10 years. Fluorescent bulbs, which consume five times less energy and last five times as long as incandescent bulbs are the leading replacement. Eventually, Light-emitting Diodes (LED) may someday be the leading replacement option. LEDs last 50 times longer than incandescent bulbs. (SOURCE: Pennsylvania Forage and Grassland News, Vol. 17, No. 4, Fall 2007)

## CORN STALKS AND A PROTEIN BLOCK.... THAT ALL YOU GOT?

Feeding the cow herd this winter will be a challenge that will have farmers looking at all options for meeting the nutritional needs of their cattle. Corn fields are dotted with large rolls of baled corn stalks, which have prompted even non-farm folks to wonder about this unusual sight. We know from the numerous questions

we get that many producers plan to use stalks as a significant part of their winter feeding program.

How good are rolled corn stalks as winter feed? Will stalks and a protein block be enough? How much stalks will a cow eat? These are just a few of the many questions we are receiving daily.

To help answer these questions, we decided to do a quick demonstration with four cows at the research farm in Princeton. Not a controlled trial but just a quick test to get a handle on how cows would adjust and perform when placed on a rolled corn stalk diet.

Jay Stone, CEA in Christian County, was very helpful in locating, delivering and ultimately donating the stalks for the trial. The bales weighed from 30 to 40 lbs each and were weighed individually before feeding each day. Feed bunks were cleaned each day and stalks that the cattle refused were also weighed to get an estimate of waste or refusal. A certain amount of stalks were pulled out of the bunk and into the pen and was not weighed due to soiling by the cattle. The cattle chosen for the trial were two dry cows with an average weight of 1265 lbs. and two lactating cows with newborn fall calves that averaged 1280 lbs. The pairs were penned separately from the dry cows and both pens had access to a 37% protein block (19% NPN) throughout the three week period. The pens had concrete floors and were bedded with sawdust so cows had access to no other feed or dry matter.

The results of this 3 week trial are in the table below:

Performance and Intake of Cows Fed Rolled Corn Stalks		
	Dry Cows	Lactating Cows
Beginning wt, lbs	1265	1280
Ending wt, lbs	1274	1264
ADG, lbs	.43	-.76
Corn Stalks intake, lbs	13.5	13.6
Protein intake, lbs	2.2	2.8
% refused or wasted	29.2%	37.2%
Intake last 10 days, lbs	17.9	19.8

These data indicate that building a winter feeding program around rolled stalks and protein blocks is not a very sound option. Energy supplementation will be needed to allow even dry cows to gain adequate weight for spring calving. A very high degree of waste or refusal will likely be associated with feeding rolled stalks. Cattle performance may even be worse for producers using CRP hay. Most of the CRP hay samples have been consistently yielding TDN values lower than corn stalks. Following are sample scenarios using rations calculated with the UKBRF program.

Feeding Examples 90 Days to Calving – Corn Stalks
• 1100 lb dry cow mid-gestation BCS 4.0 - Needs to gain 200 lbs by February
• Ration 1: Stalks + 2.2 lbs of 37% protein block - Predict. ADG .83 lbs/day = 75 lbs, (125 lbs short of 200)
• Ration 2: Stalks + protein Block + 5 lbs soyhulls - Predict. ADG 2.0 lbs/day = 180 lbs, (20 lbs short of 200)

Feeding Examples 90 Days to Calving – Poor Hay
• 1100 lb dry cow mid-gestation BCS 4.0 - Needs to gain 200 lbs by February
• Ration 1: Poor Hay + 2.2 lbs of 37% protein block - Predict. ADG -.15 lbs/day = -14 lbs (214 lbs short of desired weight)
• Ration 2: Poor Hay + protein Block + 7.5 lbs soyhulls - Predict. ADG 2.0 lbs/day = 180 lbs, (20 lbs short of desired weight)

The next 90 days will be very critical for producers with spring-calving herds to ensure that their dry cow feeding program adds enough condition to drought stressed cattle. (SOURCE: Kevin Laurent, Beef Extension Associate, University of Kentucky)

## REFLECTIONS AT MY 80<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY - CARL S. HOVELAND, OCTOBER 25, 2007

It is a beautiful sunny day with a brilliant blue sky after receiving much needed rain yesterday. The gorgeous weather is how I feel about myself at this stage in my life. I don't feel old. I am blessed with good health, a loving wife and family, many good friends, a beautiful home, and adequate means. I was fortunate to have worked at a profession I enjoyed. I had the opportunity to

travel and work in interesting foreign countries. My life was enriched by fine music, theater, books and libraries. Church activities enlarged my vistas. Life has been uncommonly good to me. Am I happy? Of course, but more importantly as Pat tells me, I am contented and not envious of other people or things.

As I think about the wonderful life I have lived, I tried to note some factors that have shaped it. Perhaps some of them may be relevant to others.

1. I came from good genetic stock, young, healthy, ambitious people, courageous enough to leave their poverty-stricken families of mid-nineteenth century Norway and try to make a better life in northern Wisconsin. They worked hard and overcame hardship to succeed as farmers in a difficult environment. The lives of my grandparents and parents have inspired me.
2. I was raised by loving parents in a dairy farming community of kind, loving people.
3. My childhood occurred during the 1930's Depression when poverty was the norm. Along with hard work, I learned frugality and saving. Debt was shunned and one did not buy anything until one had saved enough to purchase it. This lesson stuck with me throughout life. I learned that it was much easier to live below my income than up to it, allowing me to save and invest a portion each month. Paying interest to buy unnecessary items that one cannot afford is a waste of money. Savings allow a much less stressful lifestyle as well as providing a nest egg for the future.
4. I was blessed with a mother who pushed me off to the university over the objections of my father. I loved books and school, soon discovering that more education opened up greater economic and personal opportunities for a career. Education is the key to a better life.
5. It was my good fortune to work in a profession that I loved; so much that work was fun. One should seek out a career that one enjoys rather than concentrate on the highest salary. Money should not be the chief goal.
6. A good spouse will enrich one's life. I was fortunate to have two wonderful loving women who have made my life a joy.
7. The church has been an important part of my life, giving me solace, hope, and wisdom. I look forward each Sunday to the hymns, liturgical worship, thoughtful sermon, and sharing the Eucharist around the altar with my fellow parishioners. Our church does not claim to have all the answers, but through it I have learned tolerance for other viewpoints. I have learned to beware of religious groups who claim to have the only way to God and are obsessed with imposing their dogma and petty rules on other people.

It has been a good eighty years for me. The future is not something that worries me as there is little I can do about it. Now I enjoy each day as a gift from God to be loved and savored as a glass of good wine. A concern in my remaining years must be to better practice Jesus' great commandment of doing unto others as I would have them do unto me.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

JAN 7-8	Heart of America Grazing Conference, Columbia, MO
JAN 11	Forages at KCA, Lexington
JAN 26-31	SRM/AFGC Forage Conference, Louisville
FEB 21	28 <sup>th</sup> Kentucky Alfalfa Conference, Cave City
SEP 4	KFGC Field Day, Christian County

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## Best Wishes for a Happy Holiday Season

