



FORAGE NEWS

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KENTUCKY ALFALFA CONFERENCE: 28 YEARS AND GOING STRONG

The 28th Kentucky Alfalfa Conference will be held February 21, 2008 at the Cave City Convention Center. This year's conference has something for everyone interested in alfalfa. The conference begins with "Haymaking: A Trip Down Memory Lane", and concludes with "Hay Supply, Prices and the Future". In between will be keynote addresses by Dr. Neal Martin, Director of the Dairy Forage Research Center in Madison, WI; Ron Tombaugh, Past President of the National Hay Association; and, Dr. Gary Bates, Extension Forage Specialist, University of Tennessee. We expect a full house of exhibitors, a delicious meal, outstanding awards program and a good time to be had by all. Registration is \$15.00 (\$5.00 students) to be paid at the door.

Below is a schedule of the day's activities:

8:00	Registration, Visit Exhibits, Silent Auction
8:45	Welcome
9:00	Haymaking: A Trip Down Memory Lane – <i>Garry Lacefield and John Baylor</i>
9:20	Alfalfa: Back to Basics – <i>Ray Smith and Adam Probst</i>
9:40	Weed Free Hay: Status in Kentucky – <i>Kenny Perry</i>
10:00	Break, Visit Exhibits, Silent Auction
10:30	National Hay Association President's Perspective: What a Year to be President! – <i>Ron Tombaugh</i>
11:00	Alfalfa: Forage Crop of the Future – <i>Neal Martin</i>
11:50	Discussion
12:00	Lunch
1:00	Award Presentations & Silent Auction Results
1:30	Alfalfa: Balage – <i>Gary Bates</i>
2:00	Alfalfa Hay and Balage: Testing for Quality – <i>Kim Field</i>
2:30	Hay Supply, Price and the Future – <i>Tom Keene</i>
3:00	Adjourn

Please feel free to contact Garry Lacefield (270-365-7541, Ext. 202) or Christi Forsythe (270-365-7541, Ext. 221) if you have questions.

FORAGES AT KCA

Over one hundred Kentucky Beef Producers participated in some or all of the Forages at KCA program during the Kentucky Cattleman's Convention in Lexington. Participants heard from four outstanding beef producers from Kentucky telling their story of "Making Forages Work on My Farm". Lowell Clifford-Harrison County, Jason Sandefur-Bourbon County, Russell Hackley-Grayson County, and Todd Clark-Fayette County did an outstanding job in sharing with the audience their story. Our thanks to Lowell, Jason, Russell and Todd for taking time from their busy schedules to prepare and present their excellent programs. We also appreciate Dave Maples, Carey Brown and all the fine folks at KCA for hosting this annual event. Proceedings of the program are available on the Forage Website at: <http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage/ProceedingsPage.htm>

AFGC/SRM CONFERENCE A HUGE SUCCESS

As you have read in recent issues of Forage News, the Joint American Forage and Grassland Council/Society of Range Management Conference was held January 26-31, 2008 in Louisville, KY. Over 1500 people attended making this the largest Forage Conference in Kentucky since the 1980 International Grassland

Educational programs of the Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service serve all people regardless of race, color, age, sex, religion, disability, or national origin.
UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY, KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AND KENTUCKY COUNTIES, COOPERATING

Congress. Attendees represented 46 states and 8 countries with 7 people traveling all the way from China.

Kentucky was fortunate to take home a number of awards besides the producer and student awards discussed elsewhere in this issue. The Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council received the Affiliate Council Award for the top Forage Council in the USA for 2007. Russell Hackley was recognized for his many years of service on the AFGC National Board of Directors. Ray Smith co-chaired the meeting and received a commendation award for his efforts from AFGC and a specially engraved Louisville Slugger bat from the conference. Sid Brantley, State Grazing Specialist with NRCS, was presented with AFGC's Merit award. Warren Thompson, along with his colleague John Baylor from Pennsylvania, was honored by the crowd of over 400 with the Presidential Citation for his many years of leadership and contributions to Forages in the USA. We are especially proud of Bill Talley from Princeton, Kentucky who was presented with the Medallion Award. This is AFGC's highest award and held only by individuals who have made significant contributions to Forage Agriculture.

We want to extend a special thanks to all volunteers (county agents, NRCS personnel, industry representatives, producers, and students) from the Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council. We couldn't have done it without you. In addition, a special thanks to KY county agents that went above and beyond the call of duty in volunteering for this event. Over and over we heard people talk about what great county agents we have in Kentucky.

Special thanks to all from Kentucky who have worked for over two years on the Planning Committee as co-chairs for the Conference. Committee members include: Ray Smith, Garry Lacefield, Tom Keene, Steve Moore, Bill Talley, Ken Johnson, Don Sorrell, Phil Howell and Sid Brantley. Arleen Smith did an outstanding job as Conference Secretary.

KY PRODUCER AND STUDENTS WIN NATIONAL FORAGE AWARDS

Barry Drury of Versailles, KY is the National Forage Spokesperson for the American Forage and Grassland Council for 2008. He shared about his successful cattle and hay operation while competing in the Forage Spokesperson Contest at the recent AFGC/SRM Joint Conference. Barry placed 1st out of all the contestants from across the eastern USA. Barry's voice over powerpoint presentation will be available for viewing in one week at www.afgc.org. Congratulations Barry.

Three Kentucky graduate students competed in the AFGC Young Scientist Competition along with 6 students from other states. Each student gave a presentation of their graduate research. Adam Probst, Jesse Morrison, and Katie Watson were excellent ambassadors for the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture and the state of Kentucky. Katie Watson placed 1st in this prestigious competition with her presentation "Plant Constituents Affecting Preferences of Horses for Cool Season Grasses." Jesse Morrison placed 3rd for his presentation "Using Microhistological Techniques to Predict Botanical Composition of Horse Diets on Cool-Season Grass Pasture." Congratulations Katie and Jesse.

HEART OF AMERICA GRAZING CONFERENCE

Over 300 from at least twelve states attended the HOAGC in Columbia, MO January 7 & 8. Chairman Mark Kennedy, along with the entire committee did an excellent job planning and hosting this years' five-state conference. The keynote speaker was Mr. Kit Pharo, a rancher from Cheyenne Wells, Colorado who spoke on the timely topic "From Production to Profit in Ranching". Indiana will host the 2009 HOAGC.

ROUNDUP READY ALFALFA UPDATE

The USDA just recently published an "Administrative Order" that more easily outlines farmer's responsibilities when producing Roundup Ready Alfalfa. Below are some of the topics addressed in the Order.

Equipment Cleaning Procedures.

- Option 1. Dedicated Equipment
- Option 2. Cleaning Equipment.
 - A. Forage Harvesting and Processing.
 - B. Seed Harvesting Equipment.
 - C. Transportation.

Identification of Roundup Ready Alfalfa Hay and Seed.

- A. Commingling of Hay – For use on farms on which the hay is produced and/or for use by end-users.
- B. Commingling of Hay – Commingling of Roundup Ready alfalfa hay with non-Roundup Ready alfalfa hay by businesses that sell or re-sell the product.
- C. Segregation and identification of hay and seed by all persons and businesses that sell or re-sell Roundup Ready alfalfa.
- D. Seed.

The entire Administrative Order can be found on our Forage Web site at www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage. If you have grown Roundup Ready Alfalfa in the past or may consider growing it once the product is reintroduced to the marketplace, it would be advantageous to read the entire Order. (SOURCE: Tom Keene, UK Extension Hay Marketing Specialist)

CAN YOU ESTABLISH CLOVER AND SUPPRESS WINTER ANNUAL WEEDS

We have been asked by agents and producers from across the state what they should do about the profusion of weeds growing in pastures this year. There are many herbicide choices available to kill broadleaf weeds and these are described in detail in AGR-172 "Weed Management in Grass Pastures, Hayfields, and Fencerows." The difficulty is that all broadleaf weed herbicides will also kill clover and many of the new herbicides also have a long residual period before reseeding clovers.

There is one option for controlling winter annual weeds and not killing clover as highlighted in AGR-172 under sod suppression. One low rate application of Gramoxone (1 pt/acre) in the early spring will burn back all top growth. Therefore, winter annual weeds are killed or at least suppressed and this type of application rarely kills existing clovers and grasses. Important things to remember:

- 1) Spray Gramoxone when temperature is above 40 degrees.
- 2) Remove animals before spraying.
- 3) Keep animals off pasture until grass has regrown and recovered.
- 4) Clover can be no-till or frost seeded immediately after spraying (frost seed when 4 to 6 weeks of potential frosts remain - mid-Feb).

AVAIL POLYMER APPLIED TO PHOSPHORUS FERTILIZER

A study was conducted near Princeton, KY to determine if a polymer (AVAIL®) applied to diammonium phosphate (DAP, 18-46-0) and monoammonium phosphate (MAP, 11-52-0) would increase (P) phosphorus use efficiency in fescue production on a low P testing soil, when compared to an untreated phosphate fertilizer. AVAIL® (Specialty Fertilizer Products, Belton, MO) is presently being sold in Kentucky as a product to improve phosphorus fertilizer efficiency.

Results – The results from two years of evaluating different rates of P₂O₅ fertilizer, with and without AVAIL® polymer, reveal the following:

- 1) Despite the fact that this soil had a history of low fertilizer use, resulting in a low P soil test, there was no statistical difference in fescue dry matter yield due to any treatment, either different rates of P₂O₅ or use the polymer. This indicates that there was enough P for maximum dry matter growth at harvest if enough time was available for P uptake.
- 2) The fescue tissue P concentration was closely related to the amount of P₂O₅ fertilizer added. As the phosphate fertilizer rate was increased, it was reflected in the P concentration in the dry matter. There were no differences in fescue tissue P concentrations due to the polymer.

- 3) Fescue P uptake was related to both P concentration and dry matter, so gave a mixed result. There was an increase in P uptake due to added P₂O₅ fertilizer but this "trend" was not linear. There were no differences in fescue P uptake due to the polymer.
- 4) Soil testing found increased available soil P was increasing P₂O₅ application, but no differences due to polymer were observed.

Conclusions – After two years of testing, it appears that the AVAIL® polymer on MAP or DAP will not increase the availability of the phosphorus in these phosphate fertilizers to fescue as evaluated under the conditions described in this report. (SOURCE: Dr. Lloyd Murdock and Mr. John James, UKREC, Princeton, KY IN Soil Science News and Views, Vol. 27, No. 3, 2007)

RESTRICTING INTAKE OF FORAGES: AN ALTERNATIVE FEEDING STRATEGY FOR WINTERING BEEF COWS

ABSTRACT - In Experiment 1, 72 Simmental cows with calves were used to evaluate restricting time of access to high quality hay stored inside. Four replications were used to evaluate three treatments relative to access to hay: restricted to 4, 8, or 24 h/d. Final cow BW (P=0.06) tended to be heavier as hay access times increased. Calf performance did not differ. Manure production (kg DM/d per head) increased (P=0.002) with increasing access to hay. Nitrogen disappearance (kg/d per head) increased linearly (P=0.01) and quadratically (P=0.02) with increasing access to hay. In Experiment 2, 72 Simmental cows in the third trimester of gestation were used to evaluate four treatments: ground hay (7.6-cm screen) fed to meet 90% of NRC (1996) recommendations for maintenance and access to hay restricted to 3, 5, or 7 h/d. Cows on all treatments in this experiment were fed average quality hay that was stored outside. Cow BW change increased linearly (P=0.04) with increasing time allowances. Manure production (kg DM/d per head) tended to increase linearly (P= 0.08) as access time increased. In Experiment 3, 108 Simmental cows with calves were used to evaluate three feeding levels of ground hay: [100, 90, or 80% of NRC (1996) requirements for maintenance]. No differences in cow performance, calf BW gain, or manure production were observed. Amounts of N (P= 0.11) and P (P=0.09) in the manure (kg/d per head) tended to be reduced with restricted intake. These results indicate that restricting intake of at least average quality forages results in a desirable level of cow performance and reduces hay waste, manure production, and manure nutrient output. (SOURCE: T.C. Cunningham, Univ. of Illinois, Urbana IN The Professional Animal Scientist 21 (2005):182-189)

RESTRICTING TIME OF ACCESS TO LARGE ROUND BALES OF HAY AFFECTS HAY WASTE AND COW PERFORMANCE

ABSTRACT - Simmental cows in the third trimester of gestation were used in 2 trials to determine the effects of time-restricted access to large round bales on cow performance and hay disappearance. In trial 1, high quality (127 relative feed value) hay was fed ad libitum (no time restriction) or access-restricted to 9, 6, or 3 h/d. In trial 2, average-quality (96 relative feed value) hay was fed ad libitum or access-restricted to 9 or 6 h/d. In both trials, 72 cows were blocked by BW and assigned to 12 pens resulting in 6 cows per pen and 3 or 4 pens per treatment. Each pen had adequate bunk space for 7 cows, and time was limited by gates that prevented access to feeders. Results of trial 1 indicated cows on all treatments gained BW with a linear (P < 0.01) and quadratic (P = 0.03) treatment effect favoring increased time of access. As time of access increased, hay disappearance increased linearly (P < 0.01) and quadratically (P < 0.01), as did manure production, both linearly (P = 0.002) and quadratically (P = 0.07). Hay waste increased linearly (P = 0.009) with increasing time of access. In trial 2, BW gains were not different across treatments. Hay disappearance, manure production, and fecal output all increased linearly (P < 0.01) with increasing time of access. In both trials, N, P, and K outputs followed the trend of manure output and increased linearly with increasing time of access. Restricting time of access to large round bales of hay reduced hay disappearance while maintaining acceptable levels of cow performance. (SOURCE: A.J. Miller, et al., Univ. of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign IN The Professional Animal Scientist 23 (2007):366-372)

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEB 21 28th Kentucky Alfalfa Conference, Cave City
SEP 4 KFGC Field Day, Christian County



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