



# FORAGE NEWS

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

**APRIL 2005**

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

## THANKS TO BARNHART FUND FOR EXCELLENCE

Our thanks to the Barnhart Fund for Excellence for financial support of the 25<sup>th</sup> Kentucky Alfalfa Conference held at the Cave City Convention Center February 24, 2005.

## KENTUCKY GRAZING SCHOOL

Our "spring" Grazing School will be held April 20-21 at the Livestock Arena on the Morehead State University Farm in Morehead, Kentucky.

The program will begin at 8:00 on Wednesday and conclude at 3:00 on Thursday. The registration fee is \$100.00. To register, make checks payable to the Kentucky Forage & Grassland Council and send to Rebecca Smith, 400 W.P. Garrigus Building, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40546-0215 (phone – 859-257-5985).

The program offers both classroom and field activities:

### Wednesday April 20, 2005

- 8:00 Registration: All times are Eastern Time.
- 8:15 Introduction of staff and participants
- 8:35 Benefits of rotational grazing - Garry Lacefield
- 8:55 Growth of grasses and legumes and their response to grazing – Ray Smith
- 9:15 Understanding traditional forages – Garry Lacefield
- 9:35 Break
- 10:00 Establishment of forages in pasture systems - Ray Smith
- 10:30 Meeting nutritional needs on pasture – Donna Amaral-Phillips
- 11:00 Break
- 11:15 Value of shade and water - John Johns
- 11:45 Discussion
- Noon Lunch
- 12:45 Temporary fencing and chargers for effective grazing - Buddy Rowlett
- 1:15 Portable/seasonal watering systems – Kevin Laurent
- 1:45 Travel to Farm
- 2:00 Field exercise - All instructors
- Concurrent small group sessions on fencing, water system construction, costs and quality of fence materials, weed identification and control, and estimating when to move cattle.
- 5:00 Forages for problem times - David Ditsch
- 5:30 Supper

### Thursday April 21, 2005

- 8:00 Managing grazing systems for the maximum grazing season: plant considerations- Garry Lacefield
- 8:30 Managing grazing systems for the maximum grazing season: animal considerations- John Johns

- 9:00 Managing surpluses in grazing systems with baleage - Garry Lacefield
- 9:20 Break
- 9:45 Minerals for grazing cattle - Roy Burris
- 10:15 Parasite control and rotational grazing – Patty Scharko
- 10:45 Break
- 11:05 Using grazing systems to meet water quality guidelines - Sid Brantley
- 11:35 Discussion
- 11:45 Lunch
- 12:30 Animal disorders on pasture - Patty Scharko
- 1:00 Understanding the endophyte of tall fescue - Garry Lacefield
- 1:30 Laying out your system - Ken Johnson
- 2:30 Discussion
- 3:00 Graduation and final comments

### Directions

Traveling east or west on I-64...travel to the Morehead exit (exit #137 for Flemingsburg and Morehead). Take KY 32 north (heading toward Flemingsburg) for 1 mile. Turn right onto KY 377 (Cranston Road) and travel 1 mile. MSU farm (Derrickson Agriculture Complex) is on the left.

### For more information, contact:

Donna Amaral-Phillips  
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Phone 859 257 7542  
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## NEW ALFALFA WEBSITE

Over the past few months, a national committee has put together a new "Alfalfa Information Website". The site, although still in development, has a lot of excellent information on alfalfa. It also has a very good search engine to aid in finding information. If you are interested in alfalfa information, visit [www.alfalfa.info](http://www.alfalfa.info). We also have it as a link on our website at [www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage](http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage).

## ANCIENT CROP: MODERN USE?

A recent article in Hay and Forage Grower magazine (Feb. 2005) described the potential advantages of teff as a forage crop. Teff is a warm season annual crop that has been grown for 1000's of years in Ethiopia for grain and more recently for forage in parts of Africa, India, South America, and Australia. The article emphasized the yield and quality of this crop. It can be planted from May through July and has a growth pattern similar to that of most warm-

season annual forages. The main disadvantage of teff is that it is susceptible to infestation by a stem-boring insect. Dr. Ed Twidwell reported that this insect devastated some experimental plots of teff in South Dakota. Several producers have asked us about planting teff in Kentucky. Our advice, as with any new crop, is to start with a small acreage and observe how it works on your farm. If it works well for you and there are no unforeseen insect, disease or adaptation problems you can scale up production after a few years. To find the Hay and Forage Grower article look in the most recent issue at [www.hayandforage.com](http://www.hayandforage.com). Researchers at Purdue have put together a good overview of teff in a proceedings article [www.hort.purdue.edu/newcrop/proceedings1993/v2-231.html](http://www.hort.purdue.edu/newcrop/proceedings1993/v2-231.html).

## KENTUCKY VAN TO AFGC IN ILLINOIS

We hope that many of you will plan to come to the American Forage and Grassland Conference in Bloomington, Illinois June 11-15. The organizers have planned an excellent conference and we are hoping that Kentucky will have a large contingent. Bloomington is an easy drive from Kentucky (5 hrs from Lexington) and if you cannot make the entire meeting consider coming for a day or two. On Monday June 13 the conference program will merge with the Illinois Forage Expo and include educational sessions, forage contests, equipment demonstrations, and a range of exhibitors. For a full conference brochure go to [www.afgc.org](http://www.afgc.org) or Ray (see below).

The KFGC is considering organizing a van to go to the conference. We would leave the morning of June 11 and return late afternoon June 15. If you are interested in riding on the KFGC van contact Ray Smith at [raysmith1@uky.edu](mailto:raysmith1@uky.edu) or 859-257-3358.

## PENNINGTON SEED & AGRESEARCH ANNOUNCE PART SETTLEMENT OF TALL FESCUE ENDOPHYTE PATENT LAWSUIT

**Madison, GA (March 2, 2005)** - Pennington Seed Inc., a subsidiary of Central Garden and Pet Company (NASDAQ: CENT), and AgResearch Limited Announced today a finalized agreement with three of four defendant parties named in their patent lawsuit filed August 25, 2005 in federal court in the western district of Missouri. The three named defendants are Produce Exchange No. 299, Allied Seed L.L.C., and FFR Cooperative.

The lawsuit asserted Pennington Seed and AgResearch's patent rights to the MaxQ® technology. As part of settlement, the three named defendant parties agreed to terminate production, distribution and sales of ArkPlus tall fescue and vowed never to sell other products that infringe on the plaintiffs' intellectual property rights.

Pennington Seed Inc., also announced that it has reached agreement with MFA Incorporated, Southern States Cooperative Inc. and Tennessee Farmers Cooperative to distribute Pennington's premium quality forage products including MaxQ® enhanced tall fescue, Durana and Patriot white clovers, Cheyenne and Ranchero Bermuda grass.

"We welcome our new partnership with the Cooperatives to distribute Pennington's premium forage products," said Ronnie Stapp, executive vice-president of seed operations at Pennington Seed. "This agreement benefits all parties involved and makes these high quality forage products available to more livestock producers. We

look forward to helping these important customers to grow their business with quality forage products."

In the agreement, the Cooperatives will terminate production, distribution and sales of ArkPlus tall fescue.

## CONTRACTING TOXIC-ENDOPHYTE CONTAMINATION BETWEEN ENDOPHYTE- FREE AND NONTOXIC-ENDOPHYTE TALL FESCUE PASTURES

The fungal endophyte *Neotyphodium coenophialum* Morgan-Jones and Gams is abundant in tall fescue (*Festuca arundinacea* Schreb.) and one strategy to alleviate detrimental effects on livestock is to plant endophyte-free cultivars; however, these pastures frequently become recontaminated by toxic-endophyte tall fescue. An alternative strategy is to use pastures of tall fescue infected with endophyte that does not produce toxic alkaloids. Our objective was to test the hypothesis that nontoxic-endophyte infected tall fescue swards (Nontoxic-E) were more resistant to reinfestation by volunteer tall fescue and its associated toxic endophyte, than endophyte-free tall fescue swards (E-). Plots of E- and Nontoxic-E tall fescue (cultivar Jesup) with six levels of contamination by endophyte-infected K31 (0, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50% of viable seed weight) were established from seed at three sites in Ohio during April 2001. Observed endophyte levels for E- at the Jackson site were 77, 118, and 143% greater than expected in autumn 2001, spring 2002, and autumn 2002, respectively. Observed endophyte levels for E- at the Belle Valley site were 32, 70, and 39% greater than expected in autumn 2001, spring 2002, and autumn 2002, respectively. Observed endophyte levels for E- at the South Charleston site averaged 8% less than expected. Observed endophyte levels in Nontoxic-E at all sites were consistent with the endophyte levels in the seed that was planted, and plants had a negligible concentration of ergopeptine alkaloids. It was concluded that, where mechanisms for contamination exist, E- tall fescue stands can be readily contaminated by volunteer tall fescue and its toxic endophyte; but, Nontoxic-E tall fescue is less susceptible to contamination by volunteer tall fescue. (SOURCE: D.J. Barker, R.M. Sulc, T.L. Bultemeier, J.S. McCormick, R. Little, C.D. Penrose, and D. Samples, *The Ohio State University, IN 2005 Crop Science* 45:616-625)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

APR 20-21	Grazing School, Morehead
JUN 11-15	American Forage & Grassland Conference, Bloomington, IL
JUN 16	Eden Shale Field Day, Owenton
JUN 26-JUL 1	20 <sup>th</sup> International Grassland Congress, Dublin, Ireland
JUL 28	UK All Commodity Field Day, Princeton
<u>2006</u>	
JAN 25-26	Heart of America Grazing Conference, Cave City Convention Center
FEB 23	26 <sup>th</sup> Kentucky Alfalfa Conference, Lexington



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