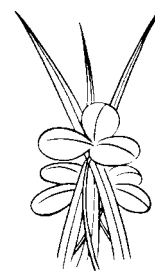
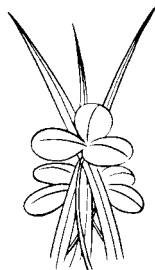




FORAGE NEWS



In this month's issue:

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Kentucky Alfalfa Conference-February 21 ! Pasture Aeration: Will it Pay?
! Upcoming Events

January 2002

Garry D. Lacefield and Jimmy C. Henning, Extension Forage Specialists ! Christi Forsythe, Secretary

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

FORAGES AT KCA

Mark your calendars and plan to attend and participate in the Kentucky Cattlemen's Convention to be held at the beautiful University Plaza Hotel and Convention Center in Bowling Green beginning at noon on January 11. We are excited about the program and all it offers to our cattlemen in the state. We are also pleased with the return to Bowling Green and expect excellent attendance. The University Plaza Hotel & Convention Center will allow plenty of elbow room for our exhibitors and program.

This marks the eighth year we have had a "Forage Conference" as the opening program for the convention. The program committee has put together an excellent, practical program and we invite you to attend and participate. The program will begin at 9:30 on January 11 with a discussion of our most abundant pasture grass - tall fescue. That topic will be followed by presentations on stand establishment and pasture aeration.

We are fortunate to have as our keynote speaker Mr. Russell Hackley, a beef producer from Grayson County, is the American Forage and Grassland Council's National Forage Spokesman. Russell received this high honor in competition in Arkansas this past year. Russell's topic will be, "How I make grazing work on my farm."

Listed below is the agenda for the morning program. A complete proceedings will be provided complimentary to all in attendance. There is no charge for attending the Forage Conference. The conference will conclude at 11:00 so participants can visit exhibits before the opening KCA luncheon.

- 9:30 Welcome
- 9:45 What's New with Tall Fescue? – Dr. Garry Lacefield
- 10:00 How to Get Good Stands for Pasture and Hay – Dr. Jimmy Henning
- 10:15 Does Pasture Aeration Pay? – Mr. Ken Johnson
- 10:30 How I Make Grazing Work On My Farm – Mr. Russell Hackley, National Forage Spokesman
- 10:45 Discussion
- 11:00 Adjourn to trade show

HEART OF AMERICA GRAZING CONFERENCE

The "first ever" five-state Grazing Conference will be held January 24 at Rend Lake College in Ina, Illinois (just off I-57 south of Marion). The program committee has put together a most interesting, practical program with outstanding speakers. The conference is sponsored by University of Illinois Extension, University of Missouri Outreach & Extension, University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service, Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service, and Ohio State University Extension with support from many other organizations. Exhibitors will include many industry, commercial, and educational groups. The registration fee is \$20 and includes a complete proceedings, all breaks and the noon lunch. For information contact Conference Chairman, Mr. Ed Ballard, University of Illinois Extension, 1209 Wenthe Drive, Effingham, IL 62401-1697, phone 217-347-5126.

The morning program consist of four keynote speakers and the afternoon program will consist of four breakout sessions that will be repeated. The program includes:

- 8:45 Introduction and Welcome
- 9:00 Benefits of Grazing -- Jim Gerrish, Extension Grazing Specialist, University of Missouri
- 9:30 Principles and Practices of Effective Grazing -- R.L. Dalrymple, Forage Agronomist, Noble Foundation
- 10:00 Break
- 10:30 Positive Environmental Impact of Grazing -- Robert Hendershot, Grassland Management Specialist, Ohio USDA – NRCS
- 11:00 Extending the Grazing Season -- Garry Lacefield, Extension Forage Specialist, University of Kentucky

Afternoon Break-Out Sessions

Each session will be offered twice – at 1 P.M. and again at 2:30 P.M.

Beef

Matching Forage Quality with Production -- Monty S. Kerley,
Extension Beef Cattle Specialist, University of Missouri
Better Pasture Management Makes Money for Us -- Jason
Sandefur, Kentucky Beef Producer

Dairy

Why Go to a Grass-Based Dairy? -- Dave Surprenant, Illinois
Dairy Producer
Economics of Grazing Dairy in Missouri -- Stacey Hamilton,
Extension Dairy Specialist and Tony Richard, Extension
Dairy Specialist, University of Missouri

Horse

Maximizing Pasture on a Horse Farm -- Steve Johnson,
Manager, Margaux Farm, Kentucky
Management Strategies of Fescue Pastures for Horses --
Wayne Loch, Research Professor of Animal Sciences,
University of Missouri

Sheep, Goats and other Small Ruminants

Grazing and Forages for Meat Goats -- Jean-Marie
Luginbuhl, Meats, Goats, Forage Systems Specialist,
North Carolina State University
Goats for the New Millennium -- Charles Reed, Owner,
Running RR Ranch, Missouri

22ND KENTUCKY ALFALFA CONFERENCE - FEBRUARY 21

The program for the 22nd Kentucky Alfalfa Conference
has been finalized. Listed below are topics and speakers for
the February 21 conference to be held at the Cave City
Convention Center.

- 8:00 Registration, visit exhibits, silent auction
9:00 Welcome
9:15 Advances in Alfalfa Breeding – What will the Alfalfa
Variety of the Future smell, taste, look, and act
like? -- Dr. Jimmy Henning
9:30 Managing Alfalfa for Yield-Quality-Persistence -- Dr.
Garry Lacefield
9:45 Grazing Alfalfa on the WKU Farm -- Dr. Byron
Sleugh
10:00 Break, visit exhibits, silent auction
10:20 Designing a Grazing System for Alfalfa -- Mr. Ken
Johnson
10:40 Innovating Loading and Stacking Systems for
Custom Hay Sales -- Mr. Tom Keene
11:00 Marketing Kentucky Hay -- Commissioner Billy Ray
Smith
11:45 Presentation of Hay Awards
12:00 Lunch, visit exhibits, silent auction
Alfalfa Awards
1:00 Silent Auction results
1:15 Advances in Hay Harvest Equipment -- Dr. Mike
Collins
2:00 Hot Topics Discussion: Speakers - University and
Industry representatives
Roundup Ready Alfalfa; Super Conditioners;
Seed Coatings; Grazing Tolerance; AM-PM
Cutting; Leafhopper Resistance
2:30 Adjourn

PASTURE AERATION: WILL IT PAY?

We have been asked this question many times over the
past several years. Dr. Gary Bates, Extension Forage
Specialist from the University of Tennessee was one of the
featured speakers at the 2nd Kentucky Grazing Conference
held in Lexington. Dr. Bates has reviewed the literature and
conducted research on pasture aeration. The following is a

synopsis from his presentation taken from the Kentucky
Grazing Conference Proceedings held November 29, 2001.

"Cattle producers in much of the U.S. depend on cool-
season perennial grasses to provide the majority of forage
for their cattle operations. Grasses such as tall fescue can
be utilized for many years without any type of tillage tool
being used on the field. There are concerns that traffic from
cattle and machinery in pastures and hayfields may result in
soil compaction, which could limit water infiltration and result
in reduced yield. Over the last several years, spike-tooth
aerators have been promoted as a tool to decrease soil
compaction caused by this traffic. These aerators penetrate
into the soil, which supposedly decreases any soil
compaction in the upper soil surface. The holes in the soil
allow water to infiltrate the soil, rather than run off without
being absorbed. The improved water infiltration should
improve yield, with claims of up to 50 percent being made.
Research that has been conducted with aerators has failed
to illustrate any improvements in yield, however. Aeration
did not increase the yields of bermudagrass (Ingram and co-
workers, 1998), bahiagrass (Williams and Kalmbacher,
1996; Ingram and co-workers, 1998) or alfalfa (Stritzke and
co-workers, 1994). In fact, work has shown that the spike-
tooth aerators may actually increase compaction around the
penetration area (Ingram et al., 1998).

Limited work has been done with these tillage tools on
tall fescue, which is the predominant forage species in
Tennessee and Kentucky. Anecdotal evidence has provided
a minimal amount of support for these tools, however
investigation of these instances has failed to provide definite
information, either positive or negative. A research project
was begun to determine if spike-tooth aeration would
improve the yield of tall fescue. The project involved two
separate studies - one on tall fescue hayfields and one on
tall fescue pastures.

Results of pasture aeration - Yields from 2000 and
2001 showed no differences between plots that were
aerated and those that were not aerated. The range in
yields for the two years was less than one-quarter of a ton
per acre.

Conclusions from aerator research - Results of this
study indicate that spike-tooth aeration does not seem to
improve forage yield of tall fescue. Compaction problems
that may occur in tall fescue stands in Tennessee are
probably reduced through freezing/thawing cycles during
winter and by root channels, thereby reducing the potential
for spike-tooth aeration to be beneficial in these conditions.
There may be soil types in other regions that can benefit
from aeration. However, thorough investigation of those
types needs to be done before producers invest in the
substantial cost of purchasing/utilizing these implements."
(SOURCE: Dr. Gary Bates, University of Tennessee)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- JAN 11 Forages at KCA, Bowling Green
JAN 24 Five-State Grazing Conference, Rend Lake
Community College, Illinois
FEB 21 XXII Kentucky Alfalfa Conference, Cave City
APR 17-18 Spring Grazing School, Lincoln County
JUL 18 UK All Commodity Field Day, Princeton

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