



# FORAGE NEWS

**JANUARY 2004**

*Garry D. Lacefield, Extension Forage Specialist • Christi Forsythe, Secretary*

## **FORAGES AT THE KENTUCKY CATTLEMEN'S CONVENTION**

The Forage Program will be held on January 9, 2004 at the Convention Center in Bowling Green. The program will begin at 9:00 and be over in plenty of time to visit the exhibits before the Kentucky Cattlemen's opening luncheon. The committee has put together a very practical program:

- 9:00 Welcome
- 9:10 Getting More from Forages – Dr. Garry Lacefield
- 9:30 Managing Broomsedge in Pastures – Dr. Monroe Rasnake
- 10:00 Opportunities for Warm Season Perennial Grasses – Mr. Randy Seymour
- 10:30 Forages in My Farming Operation – Mr. Jimmie Thompson
- 11:00 Discussion & Adjourn

A complete proceedings along with other publications and handouts will be available. There is no charge or registration fee for the Forage Program.

See you in Bowling Green.

## **KFGC ELECTS OFFICERS**

Officers of the Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council for 2004 include:

- President – Mr. Ken Johnson
- Vice President – Mr. Dan Grigson
- Treasurer – Mr. Phil Howell
- Secretary (acting) – Dr. Garry Lacefield

## **24<sup>TH</sup> KENTUCKY ALFALFA CONFERENCE**

Want more information on Roundup Ready Alfalfa, Hybrid Alfalfa, Establishment, Fertilizing, Grazing, Marketing, Managing temperature and moisture during harvesting, Thermometers for measuring temperature, or balancing agronomics and economics of alfalfa? If you answered YES to any of these, then plan on attending the 24<sup>th</sup> Kentucky Alfalfa Conference to be held on February 26 at the Cave City Convention Center. In addition to the list of topics above, you can get information on the latest products, supplies, and services available to alfalfa producers at the trade show. We expect a "full house" of exhibitors. Another opportunity will be available with the "Silent Auction". Seed, chemicals, and other products needed in alfalfa production will be available for bid throughout the morning.

For more information on the 24<sup>th</sup> Kentucky Alfalfa Conference, contact Garry Lacefield at [glacefie@uky.edu](mailto:glacefie@uky.edu) phone 270.365.7541 X202 or Christi Forsythe at [cforsyth@uky.edu](mailto:cforsyth@uky.edu) phone 270.365.7541 X221. You may also view a copy of the entire program on the web at <http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Agronomy/Extension/>  
Hope to see you in Cave City.

## **KENTUCKY HAY TESTING PROGRAM**

In addition to getting your hay tested, you can also get your round bale or chopped haylage tested through the Kentucky Department of Agriculture. One simple toll free phone call will set the program in place by having a person visit your farm and take either hay or haylage samples. For only \$10.00 per lot, you can get an accurate analysis of the nutritive value of your stored feed. For more information or to make an appointment, contact the Kentucky Department of Agriculture Hay and Grain Division at 1-800-248-4628). You can also learn more about the program by visiting [www.kyagr.com](http://www.kyagr.com) and go to the Hay Testing Page.

## **HEART OF AMERICA GRAZING CONFERENCE**

**JANUARY 21 – 22, 2004**

**HOLIDAY INN CONFERENCE CENTER AT THE AIRPORT  
EVANSVILLE, IN**

University Extension and USDA-NRCS grazing and livestock specialists from Illinois, Kentucky, Missouri, Indiana and Ohio have organized the Heart of America Grazing Conference that rotates among these 5 states each year. This year it will be Indiana's turn to host this conference. Livestock equipment exhibitors will be on hand for participants to visit. There will also be nationally known speakers brought in to discuss livestock care and livestock grazing issues.

The Conference will kick-off on the evening of January 21<sup>st</sup> with a dinner, featuring Dr. Temple Grandin. Dr. Grandin will talk about "Selecting Animals for Pastures." Dr. Grandin is a designer of livestock handling facilities and an Associate Professor of Animal Science at Colorado State University. Facilities she has designed are located in the United States, Canada, Europe, Mexico, Australia, New Zealand, and other countries. In North America, almost half of the cattle are handled in a center track restrainer system that she designed

for meat plants. Curved chute and race systems she has designed for cattle are used worldwide and her writings on the flight zone and other principles of grazing animal behavior have helped many people to reduce stress on their animals during handling.

The Conference starts anew on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, beginning at 8:20 a.m. "Maximizing Dry Matter Intake from Pastures" will be the first topic discussed by Karen Sullivan, NRCS Animal Scientist from New York. Following her talk, Dave Forgery, an Indiana Dairy Producer and Grazing Pioneer will discuss the "Economics of Grazing." Following a break where participants will have time to visit with the Exhibitors, Terry Gompert, Knox County Extension Educator of Nebraska Extension will speak on "Extending the Grazing Season Using Brassicas and Small Grains." Temple Grandin will then address the topic, "Low Stress Livestock Handling on Pasture".

In the afternoon, breakout sessions will be provided for producers interested in Beef, Dairy, Horse or Small Ruminant discussions. All 4 of these specialty sessions will be running concurrently at 1:00 p.m. CST and repeated at 2:30 p.m. This will allow participants the opportunity attend 2 of the 4 areas of interest.

The **Beef** topics will be covered by Garry Lacefield, University of Kentucky Forage Specialist, talking about "Tall Fescue Endophyte, and Animal Relationships" and Kenneth E. Braun, Indiana Beef Producer talking about "Raising Beef and Making It Work!"

The **Dairy** topics will be covered by Charlie Carter, an Indiana Dairy Producer, talking about "Green, My Color of Opportunity!" and Michael Schutz, Purdue Dairy Specialist, discussing "Genetics of Dairy Grazing."

The **Horse** topics will be covered by Keith Johnson, Purdue Forage Specialist, speaking on "Overworked Pastures Need Rest and TLC" and David Redman, Lawrence County Purdue Extension Educator on "Making a Drylot a Pasture."

The **Small Ruminants** topics will be covered by Terry Hutchen, University of Kentucky Goat Specialist on "Raising Goats on Forages and Controlling Parasites on Pastures" and Bill MacKenzie, Indiana Sheep Producer talking about "Grazing Sheep for Profit."

Cost to attend this 2 day event is \$45, including the evening dinner and noon lunch if you register by January 12, 2004. After this date, the cost will increase to \$60 per person. There are price breaks available if you only want to attend the Wednesday evening or Thursday events separately.

Exhibitor and Conference Registration forms are available by contacting Allen Ullom at 812/547-7084 or [ullomg@purdue.edu](mailto:ullomg@purdue.edu) You can also call the Vanderburgh County (Indiana) SWCD office at: 812/867-0729.

## **NU RESEARCH: FEEDING, GRAZING GM CORN DOESN'T AFFECT LIVESTOCK PERFORMANCE**

The latest University of Nebraska research confirms that feeding or grazing genetically modified corn has no effect on livestock performance.

These studies involved Bt corn for rootworms and Roundup Ready corn. Results reinforce earlier findings on the feed value of genetically modified crops by scientists at Nebraska and at other land-grant universities, said Animal Scientist Galen Erickson.

The bottom line for livestock producers is they can expect the same livestock performance whether they feed currently available genetically modified corn or conventional corn, he said.

NU Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources animal scientists have evaluated performance of livestock fed or grazed on genetically modified corn for the last three years to provide information on these new types of corn, he said. Sixty percent of the U.S. corn supply is fed to livestock.

"It's important that if we change corn traits that we do not decrease the feeding value," Erickson said. "Bt and Roundup Ready corn are very advantageous from an agronomic point, but we needed to research this to ensure that the feed value was not negatively impacted."

Feeding trials for beef, dairy and swine were conducted at NU's Agricultural Research and Development Center near Mead, Neb.

One experiment found no difference in steer performance among steers that grazed corn stalks from either Bt corn for rootworms, Roundup Ready corn or conventional corn during a 60-day grazing period.

In a 2001 study, steers showed no preference for Bt or conventional corn. During the grazing period, 47.5 percent of the steers were observed grazing Bt residue, while 52.5 percent were observed grazing conventional cornstalks.

Producers sometimes report that cattle spend more time grazing conventional than Bt cornstalks. However, Erickson said this apparent preference probably is because there's more corn left after harvest in conventional corn fields with insect damage.

In two finishing trials, 200 steers were fed rations containing either Roundup Ready corn or a conventional but genetically similar hybrid, and 200 crossbred yearling steers received Bt corn for rootworms or genetically similar conventional corn. Animal performance and carcass data for these trials showed no significant differences.

"Overall, performance was not negatively affected in the corn residue grazing or feedlot experiments, suggesting that the corn rootworm-protected hybrids and Roundup Ready corn hybrids are similar to conventional corn grain and residues when utilized by beef cattle," Erickson said.

In an experiment with swine, NU Swine Nutritionist Phil Miller compared pig growth and percent lean in pigs fed Bt corn for rootworms or conventional corn. In another study, they compared nutritional value and nitrogen digestibility for young pigs fed Roundup Ready corn and those fed conventional corn.

Neither study revealed significant differences, Miller said.

Researchers evaluated 72 barrows and 72 gilts for the Bt study and 12 barrows for the Roundup Ready study.

Results showed Bt corn does not affect pig performance and that Roundup Ready corn can be fed to young pigs without affecting nitrogen or energy digestibility, Miller said.

Two dairy studies also were conducted to evaluate the effect of Roundup Ready corn and Bt corn for rootworms on feed intake and milk production. Findings showed similar performance for genetically modified and conventional corn as measured by efficiency of milk production for lactating dairy cows.

These studies were conducted in cooperation with IANR's Agricultural Research Division. (Source: Univ. of Nebraska-Lincoln, News web [ianrnews.unl.edu](http://ianrnews.unl.edu), November 10, 2003)

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

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|-----------|---|
| JAN 9     | Forages at KCA, Bowling Green                           |
| JAN 22    | Heart of America Grazing Conference, Evansville, IN     |
| FEB 7     | Southern Forage Workshop, Chattanooga, TN               |
| FEB 26    | 24 <sup>th</sup> Kentucky Alfalfa Conference, Cave City |
| APR 20-21 | Kentucky Grazing School, Hardin County                  |
| JUN 12-16 | American Forage & Grassland Council, Roanoke, VA        |
| JUN 24    | KFGC Field Day, Russell Hackley Farm, Grayson County    |



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