

FORAGE NEWS

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

NOVEMBER 2004

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

DR. RAY SMITH JOINS KENTUCKY FORAGE TEAM

Dr. Ray Smith has accepted the Forage Extension Position at Lexington. Dr. Smith is a native of Georgia and received his B.S. degree at Asbury College in Wilmore, Kentucky. He received the M.S. and Ph.D. at the University of Georgia. Following his graduate work in Georgia, he worked at the University of Manitoba in Canada. In 1996, he accepted the position of Extension Forage Specialist at Virginia Tech. Ray will be a valuable asset to our Kentucky Team. He and his family will be arriving in Kentucky by January 1.

KFGC PRESENTS 2004 FORAGE AWARDS

The Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council presented their highest awards during ceremonies at the 5th Kentucky Grazing Conference in Bowling Green on October 26, 2004. Awards were presented in four categories:

Award	Recipient
Grassroots	Lee Robey
Industry	Joe Stephens
Public Service (County)	Don Sorrell
Public Service (State)	Donnie Davis

Congratulations to Lee, Joe, Don and Donnie.

FORAGE SPOKESMAN WINNER

Steve Meredith was the winner of the KFGC Forage Spokesman Contest held at the 5th Kentucky Grazing Conference in Bowling Green October 26, 2004. Steve is a beef producer from Hardin County. He will represent Kentucky in the American Forage & Grassland Contest in Illinois next June.

Congratulations Steve, we are very proud of you and wish you the very best as you prepare for AFGC.

GRIGSON BECOMES KFGC PRESIDENT

Mr. Dan Grigson, County Extension Agent for Agriculture and Natural Resources was elected President of the Kentucky Forage & Grassland Council at the Annual Business Meeting in Bowling Green on

October 26, 2004. Dan has been a member and leader in KFGC for over 25 years. He has served in many capacities and on many committees. Dan's experience, vision and dedication to forages will enable him to lead KFGC forward. Congratulations Dan, we look forward to working with you.

KFGC BOARD ELECTS SIX NEW MEMBERS

The membership of the Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council has elected six new members to their board of directors. Elected from the producer sector were John Nowak and Jason Sandefur, from the industry sector Brad Bennett and Scott Cooper and, from the public sector Bob Coleman and Byron Sleugh. Our congratulations to each. We look forward to serving Kentucky forages with each of you.

5TH KENTUCKY GRAZING CONFERENCE BIG SUCCESS

Participants from eleven states attended and participated in the 5th Kentucky Grazing Conference held at the WKU Expo Center in Bowling Green on October 26, 2004. In addition to speakers from Kentucky, Dr. Gary Bates from Tennessee and Dr. Don Ball from Auburn University were featured speakers. The 6th Kentucky Grazing Conference will join forces with the Heart of America Grazing Conference for a meeting in Kentucky in 2006. Date and location for this Grazing Conference have not been set. The next Heart of America Grazing Conference will be January 19 & 20, 2005 in Wilmington, Ohio.

FORAGE INFORMATION

Want to know about upcoming forage events, get a copy of the latest Forage News, copies of forage variety test reports, forage publications, information on poisonous plants, KFGC and Alfalfa Conference Award Winners, or a link to forage websites throughout the USA? If you answered YES to any of the above, visit our Website at <http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage>. If you have forage-livestock related websites that you think would complement our linking, please send them to us

and we can evaluate and add to make our site more helpful.

WHAT IS THE QUALITY OF YOUR HAY?

Take the guesswork out of hay quality evaluation by having your hay tested through the Forage Testing Program. For \$10.00 per lot, a representative from the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's Forage Testing Program will come to your farm, sample the hay, and send you a complete analysis. For more information on the hay testing program, visit the web at www.kyagr.com and go to the Hay Testing page. To make an appointment to get your hay tested, call 1-800-248-4628.

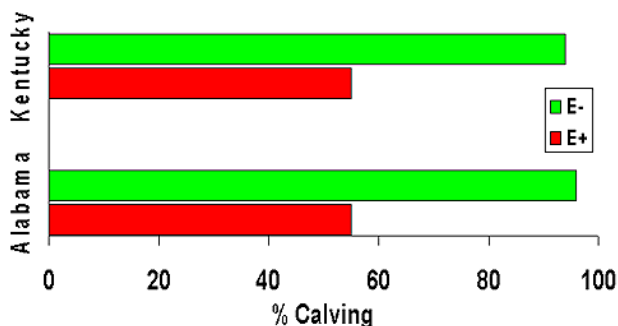
HOW GOOD IS STOCKPILED TALL FESCUE?

In last month's Forage News, we shared data from Kentucky and Missouri on the quality of stockpiled tall fescue. During an agent training session earlier this month in Campbell County, Don Sorrell shared the following data from samples taken on the Gene Dobbs farm in Campbell County. The field was fertilized with 150 pounds 34-0-0 in August and sampled on October 8:

Stockpiled Tall Fescue*	
Dry Matter Basis	
Relative Feed Value	131.30
Crude Protein %	20.20
Acid Detergent Fiber %	24.90
Neutral Detergent Fiber %	49.20
Total Digestible Nutrients %	69.20

*SOURCE: Don Sorrell, Campbell County Extension Agent for Agriculture and Natural Resources

EFFECTS OF TALL FESCUE ENDOPHYTE ON REPRODUCTION



Effect of toxic tall fescue on reproduction in beef animals in Kentucky (13) and Alabama (32). As a rule of thumb, each 10% increase in endophyte infection reduces calving percentage by approximately 5%.

SOURCE: <http://www.plantmanagementnetwork.org/pub/cm/management/2004/toxicosis/>

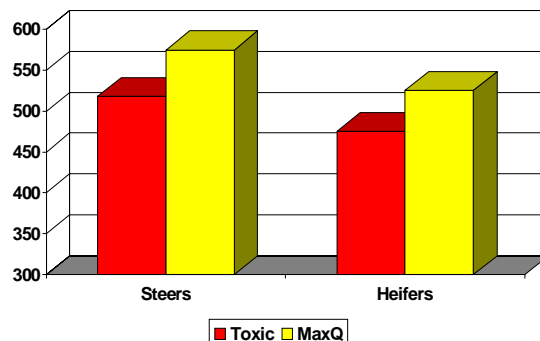
AMERICAN FORAGE AND GRASSLAND COUNCIL UPDATE

The AFGC is entering an exciting time in its history. They held their last annual meeting in Roanoke, VA with the largest crowd in recent history. We also had the highest number of Kentuckians to attend an out-of-state forage meeting, ever, in Roanoke. The next AFGC annual meeting will be June 11-14, 2005 in Bloomington, IL. It looks like we will have an even bigger group traveling to IL. The Council is also going to unveil a new "Certified Grassland Professional" program to give more credence to forage professionals. A new Forage Leader

magazine was released this past summer and is already growing in size due to overwhelming support. I hope you will consider joining AFGC if you are not a member and then travel with us to IL next June. (SOURCE: Ken Johnson, President, Kentucky Forage & Grassland Council)

CALF WEANING WEIGHTS OF CATTLE GRAZING TOXIC OR MAXQ™ TALL FESCUE STANDS

Calf weaning weights of cattle grazing toxic or MaxQ™ tall fescue stands. Values are averages of 2 years' data collected near Calhoun, Georgia. (Bouton, et al., 2000 and Watson, et al., 2001)



(SOURCE: Bouton, et al., 2000 and Watson, et al., 2001)

HAY PRODUCTION

All hay production was forecast at 5.96 million tons, down 6 percent from both the August 1 estimate and 2003. **Alfalfa hay** was forecast at 962,000 tons, down 16 percent from the August forecast, but 10 percent above 2003. Yield was estimated at 3.7 tons per acre, down from 4.4 tons per acre in August but above the 3.5 tons harvested during 2003. **Other hay** production was forecast at 5.00 million tons, down 4 percent from August and 9 percent below the previous year. Yield per acre was estimated at 2.5 tons per acre, down slightly from August and equal to the record yield set in 2003. Haying has been difficult due to the wet spring, and late fall production has been reduced by dry conditions over much of the state. (SOURCE: Kentucky Agri-News, Vol. #23, No. 20, Oct. 12, 2004)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- DEC 13-15 National Alfalfa Symposium, San Diego, CA
- JAN 7 Forages at KCA, Owensboro
- JAN 19-20 Heart of America Grazing Conference, Wilmington, OH
- FEB 24 25th Kentucky Alfalfa Conference, Cave City Convention Center
- JUN 11-15 American Forage & Grassland Conference, Bloomington, IL
- JUN 26-JUL 1 20th International Grassland Congress, Dublin, Ireland
- JUL 28 UK All Commodity Field Day, Princeton

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November 2004