24TH KENTUCKY ALFALFA CONFERENCE
The 24th Kentucky Alfalfa Conference will be held at the Cave City Convention Center February 26, 2004. The program will begin at 8:00 a.m. with registration. The exhibits will also be open at 8:00 a.m. and you can make your first bid on all the Silent Auction items while enjoying a cup of coffee and donut.

The program will feature speakers from Missouri, Wisconsin, Tennessee, and Kentucky. Topics will include grazing, fertilizing, establishment, Roundup Ready Alfalfa, hybrid alfalfa, marketing, managing temperatures and moisture during harvesting, and balancing agronomics and economics.

Program and speakers include:

8:00  Registration, Visit Exhibits, Silent Auction
8:45 Welcome - Dr. Jimmy Henning, Mr. Tom Keene, Mr. Ken Johnson
9:00 Why Graze Alfalfa? - Dr. Garry Lacefield
9:20 Fertilizing Alfalfa for Profit - Dr. Monroe Rasnake
9:40 Thermometers for Measuring Temperature in Hay - Dr. Doug Overhults
10:00 Break
10:30 Principles and Practices of Successful Alfalfa Establishment - Dr. Gary Bates
11:00 Roundup Ready Alfalfa - Mr. Dan Foor
11:30 Hybrid Alfalfa: Reality or Pipe Dream? - Mr. Mike Velde
12:00 Lunch, Awards Presentations, Silent Auction Results
1:00 Breakout Sessions
1. Balancing Agronomics & Economics of Alfalfa Hay Production - Mr. Brian Lacefield and Dr. Garry Lacefield
2. Marketing Kentucky Alfalfa - Mr. Tom Keene and Mr. Nicky Baker
3. Moisture - Temperature Management During Alfalfa Hay and Silage Making & Storing - Dr. Mike Collins
2:00 Break
2:20 Repeat Breakout Sessions
3:20 Adjourn

Registration fee is $15.00 (students $5.00) and includes: proceedings, handouts, breaks, and lunch.

Hay awards and our Annual Alfalfa Awards will be presented at noon.

For more information on the Conference, contact Garry Lacefield at glacefie@uky.edu phone 270.365.7541 X202 or Christi Forsythe at 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.

FORAGES AT KCA PROCEEDINGS AVAILABLE ON-LINE
Proceedings from the Forages at KCA Symposium held January 9, 2004 are now available on the Web at the College of Agriculture, Department of Agronomy Home Page under publications
http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Agronomy/Extension/Forages/KCA2004Proceedings.pdf

FORAGE VARIETY INFORMATION AVAILABLE
Forage Variety Reports for 2003 are now available on Tall Fescue, Orchardgrass, Timothy, Cool Season Grazing Tolerance, Ryegrass, Summer Annual Forages, Red & White Clover, Alfalfa, and Alfalfa Grazing Tolerance. These reports are available in County Extension Offices and/or on the Web:
http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Agronomy/Extension/Forages/Variety%20Reports.htm

SPRING GRAZING SCHOOL
The Kentucky Spring Grazing School will be held at the Hardin County Extension Office April 20-21, 2004. Registration fee is $100.00 and includes all materials, grazing notebook, Southern Forage Book, breaks and selected meals. If you would like to reserve a spot in the Grazing School, send check payable to: Kentucky Forage & Grassland Council to Rebecca Smith, 400 W.P. Garrigus Building, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40546-0215, phone: 859-257-5985.

IMPROVING FORAGE SYSTEMS IS FOCUS OF NORTHEAST KENTUCKY PROGRAM
Whether it’s dairy cows, horses or goats, high quality forages are essential to animal health and performance.

A new program targeting historically tobacco-dependent counties in northeastern Kentucky aims to help producers improve forage quality and increase the market potential of hay.

“Forages are well suited for soils in that part of the state, and the counties that lie generally east of I-75 and north of I-64 are an appropriate location to use as a model for doing some of the forage education work we feel could be useful in other parts of Kentucky,” said Mike Collins, forage specialist in the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture.

Enabled by a $363,000 grant from Kentucky’s Agricultural Development Board to the Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council, the program will concentrate on improving cash hay
production and marketing, and increasing nutritive quality of on-farm hay and pastures.

With cooperation from the Commodity Growers Cooperative Association, Kentucky Department of Agriculture, and the Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service, UK’s College of Agriculture will hire two forage professionals to provide technical expertise to producers and work closely with UK’s forage team.

These professionals also will provide support to the Buffalo Trace Area Produce and Hay Auction and other hay marketing outlets in the area.

“These will be full-time positions, with one of them being a hay marketing specialist and the other a forage professional who puts emphasis on forage systems for goats,” said Collins. Because goat production is on the rise in many counties, Collins said the new program offers an excellent chance to identify preferred forage species but also to assist producers in introducing grazing management practices that enhance goat health. (SOURCE: UK Press Release, December 2003)

bermudagrass (Cynodon dactylon) continues to grow in Kentucky as producers evaluate all their summer grazing options and investigate many of the new and improved varieties currently available. In general, bermudagrass research in Kentucky has shown that medium to high yields (5-7 tons/ac) are possible and medium nutritive quality can be expected depending on management. However, producers should be cautious when electing to establish bermudagrass and rely on Kentucky research when selecting varieties.

WHAT IS QUALITY WORTH?

The Value of Hay Compared with Shelled Corn Calculated from Crude Protein, TDN, Ca and P*.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hay</th>
<th>30% TDN Level</th>
<th>Value $/Ton As Fed</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$/lb.</td>
<td>$/T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hay</td>
<td>Feed loss</td>
<td>Feed loss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40%</td>
<td>0.335</td>
<td>0.051</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45%</td>
<td>0.330</td>
<td>0.046</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50%</td>
<td>0.337</td>
<td>0.050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56%</td>
<td>0.421</td>
<td>0.059</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60%</td>
<td>0.514</td>
<td>0.072</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67%</td>
<td>0.700</td>
<td>0.098</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Assumption: 48% crude protein soybean meal at $254/ton; feed limestone at $7.00/cwt.; dicalcium phosphate at $27/cwt. Observations:
1) Those who are selling quality hay are likely not getting enough for it!
2) Hay should be bought by the ton and its value determined by a forage analysis!

(SOURCE: George I. Kelley, Hopkins County Extension Agent for Agriculture/Natural Resources)

KFGC ELECTION RESULTS

The results are in and KFGC will be benefiting from six new board members elected this month. We appreciate all of the candidates taking the time and effort to be considered for this position and I want to encourage them to consider running in the future. The board members elected for the next three year term are: Producers Larry Clay and Jimmie Thompson; Public members Mike Collins and Keenan Turner; and Industry representatives Mike Feldhaus and Saralyn Hite. Let’s give them a big thank you for their commitment to forages.

NEXT UP, KFGC has two candidates for the American Forage and Grassland board, they are: Byron Sleugh, Public Sector and Jimmie Thompson, Producer. Please take time to support them by voting. Vote by paper ballot, FAX, or online at www.afgc.org. Please vote. If you need a ballot, please contact me or Garry Lacefield. (Ken Johnson, President)

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEB 26 24th 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
OCT 3-7 Native Warm Season Grass Conference, Shelbyville

Garry D. Lacefield
Extension Forage Specialist
January 2004