



FORAGE NEWS

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

JANUARY 2005

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

25TH KENTUCKY ALFALFA CONFERENCE

Mark your calendars for February 24, 2005 and the 25th Kentucky Alfalfa Conference. The Conference will be held at the Cave City Convention Center. More details in the February issue of Forage News. For details of the entire program, see our website at www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage.

UK ALL COMMODITY FIELD DAY

Mark your calendars and make plans to attend the University of Kentucky All Commodity Field Day to be held July 28 at the UKREC in Princeton. This field day promises to have "something for everyone". More details will be forthcoming.

RAY SMITH JOINS OUR KENTUCKY FORAGE TEAM THIS MONTH

Kentucky is a forage state and I am excited to be coming to Kentucky as your new Forage Extension Specialist. Some of the best Forage Specialists in the country are working or have worked in KY including Garry Lacefield, Jimmy Henning, and Warren Thompson and I feel privileged to be joining such an elite group. Here's my background - I was born and raised in Georgia, graduated from Asbury College just south of Lexington, and taught high school for two years. I received my masters and PhD from the University of Georgia on forage breeding and management with Dr. Joe Bouton (focusing on improving grazing tolerance of alfalfa). I continued forage breeding and management research during 11 years in Canada and was involved extensively with the U.S. and Canadian seed industry. I have been at Virginia Tech since 2001 as Forage Extension Specialist. My primary research emphasis in VA was improving the establishment and maintenance of legumes in grass pastures. I look forward to building on my existing background and experience as I start up in Kentucky. Most of all, I look forward to joining with you and learning from you as we work together to insure that forages continue to be the premier crop in Kentucky. My first priority after arriving in January will be getting to know the state. My second priority will be working with county agents, Garry Lacefield, David Ditsch and others to provide you with current forage information through meetings, field days and publications. My third priority will be the

development of a strong applied research program that will support your farming operations.

FORAGES AT KCA

We look forward to seeing each of you at the Forage Conference January 7, 2005 at the Executive Inn in Owensboro. This makes the 10th year we have had a Forage Program at KCA. Our program committee has put together three very timely, practical topics:

- 10:30 Welcome and Introductions
- 10:40 Importance of Forage Quality - Dr. Garry Lacefield, Extension Forage Specialist, University of Kentucky
- 11:00 Corn as a Grazing Crop - Dr. David Ditsch, Extension Agronomist, University of Kentucky
- 11:30 Improved Grazing Systems Make Dollars and Sense - Mr. Jason Tower, Superintendent, Southern Indiana Purdue Agriculture Center, Dubois, Indiana
- 12:00 Adjourn to lunch and Trade Show

We will have a proceedings of all three presentations along with other publications. There is no charge for the Forage Program and we will have you out in time for lunch.

In addition to the Forage Conference, we will have two "Hay Workshops" in the exhibit area. The first will be at 1:30 on Friday afternoon and the second at 10:30, Saturday morning. See you in Owensboro.

GENE OLSON TO HEAD KENTUCKY VARIETY TESTING PROGRAM

I am pleased to announce that Gene Olson has recently been hired as the research specialist to head the KY Variety Testing program. Gene did a great job of managing the program this past summer in addition to his research analyst responsibilities with the clover program. We are looking forward to having Gene full time with the variety testing program. In recent weeks I have had several people from across the eastern U.S. say that KY has one of the premier variety testing programs in the country. Of course I agreed and I am confident that Gene will not only continue our national leading variety testing program, but will help us take it to the next level.

HEART OF AMERICA GRAZING CONFERENCE – JANUARY 19-20-2005

The fourth annual Heart of America Grazing Conference is scheduled for January 19 and 20, 2005 at the Roberts Conference Centre near Wilmington, Ohio. The conference center is at exit 50 on Interstate 71. The conference brings together producers, industry representatives and agency specialists from Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri and Ohio. The Heart of America Grazing Conference this year will include a tour of the Wilmington College grazing operation. Their operation includes beef cattle, sheep and meat goats. Different fencing, watering facilities and forage species will be observed during the tour. The tour will also include a grazing demonstration plot of stockpiled tall fescue with different rates of nitrogen with and without the use of Agrotain, a nitrogen enzyme inhibitor. The Wednesday program will also include a demonstration and hands-on workshop on low stress animal handling. Steve Cote author of "Stockmanship – A Powerful Tool for Grazing Lands Management" will lead everyone at Wilmington College Equine Arena in the proper way of handling, moving, and working livestock. The evening will end with a dinner and Mark Sulc has been invited to address the crowd on the Grazing operations in Brazil.

The Thursday program includes morning sessions on "The Lasting Effects of Endophyte on Animals", "Grazing Systems and Streams", "Optimizing Grazing Lands" and "Stockmanship A Powerful Tool for Grazing Land Management". The afternoon portion of the program will include breakout sessions for dairy, beef, horse, sheep and goats. There are two new sessions for this year's program. A session on pasture raised pork and the other on soil tilth concerns when grazing crop fields. These sessions provide for an opportunity for producers to visit with other producers and agency and university specialists. The trade show will be open on Wednesday and all day Thursday for producers to talk with suppliers of seed, fence and other equipment used on grazing farms.

The cost of the conference will be \$45 for the Early-Bird Special until January 9, 2005, then \$60. The one day registration for January 19 is \$20 before January 9 and \$25 after. The January 20 only registration is \$25 before January 9 and \$35 after January 9, 2005. The registration includes meals and all program materials. For registration material contact Bob Hendershot by phone at 740-653-1559 or email (bob.hendershot@oh.usda.gov) or Jeff McCutcheon 740-397-0401 (mccutcheon.30@osu.edu). Rooms are available at the adjoining Ramada Plaza Hotel at a special rate for the Heart of America Grazing Conference.

NOTE: See our Website (www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage) for details on the program.

INTEGRATING HABITAT FOR BOBWHITE QUAIL AND GRASSLAND BIRDS INTO LIVESTOCK FORAGE AND GRAZING SYSTEMS

The bobwhite quail population has endured a decline of more than 65% over the last 20 years throughout its range. The Northern Bobwhite Conservation Initiative (NBCI) is a range-wide plan to restore habitat and recover bobwhite populations through collaboration between state and federal agencies, conservation organizations and private landowners. The Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, through the Southeast Quail Study Group, developed the NBCI. The NBCI is a habitat based

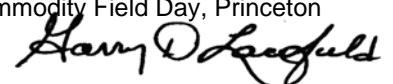
plan that focuses on the three dominant land-uses of agricultural lands, forestlands and grasslands. Modern forage and grazing systems, especially in the East, typically do not provide the critical habitat elements required to sustain populations of quail. This poster presentation highlights the utilization of vegetation management practices and grazing regimes that favor plant communities beneficial to bobwhites. These practices can be implemented without sacrificing farm profit, and may actually increase profit through the use of Farm Bill conservation program incentives and cost-share payments. Additionally, conditions that benefit quail also benefit an array of songbirds that have also experienced population declines. (SOURCE: D.B. Carmichael, Jr. and K.M. Puckett, *Forage Progress*, Vol. 2, Nov. 2004)

STORAGE LOSSES AND NUTRITIVE VALUE OF WARM-SEASON FORAGES CONSERVED AS BALEAGE

The baleage system for conserving forages is becoming widely accepted by Louisiana dairymen. The most popular baleage crop grown in southern Louisiana is annual ryegrass. Although properly managed ryegrass is high in quality, yield per acre for this crop is insufficient to meet stored forage needs of most producers. As a consequence, many producers are finding it necessary to conserve some warm-season crops as baleage. In the present study, we were interested in determining how well three locally grown warm-season forages stored/ensiled as baleage and what nutritive value these crops possessed when harvested to optimize quality and yield. The forage crops evaluated were bermudagrass, signalgrass, and forage sorghum. These crops were compared to annual ryegrass. Primary criteria used to evaluate baleage crops were: final pH, surface mold, dry matter losses during the six-month storage period, along with baleage chemical composition. Forage sorghum baleage tended to have the lowest pH and surface mold, but storage losses were minimal for all crops. Protein concentration was over 18% for signalgrass and ryegrass baleages. Fiber concentrations were lowest and predicted energy concentrations were highest for signalgrass. We concluded that under the management conditions employed in this study, all warm-season forages evaluated would ensile and store successfully as baleage, but only signalgrass possessed nutrient composition comparable to ryegrass. (SOURCE: M.E. McCormick, *Louisiana State University, Forage Progress*, Vol. 2, Nov. 2004.)

UPCOMING EVENTS

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



Garry D. Lacefield
Extension Forage Specialist
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