

Dr. Garry D. Lacefield
Professor of Plant & Soil Science Extension
Extension Forage Specialist
University of Kentucky

Garry is a native of McHenry, Kentucky (Ohio County) and grew up on a crop-livestock farm in the Western Kentucky Coal Field Area. After graduation from Centertown High School, he entered the U.S. Army and served 2.5 years in Germany. He received his B.S. and M.S. degrees from Western Kentucky University with a major in Agriculture and Biology. He received the Ph.D. degree from the University of Missouri in 1974.

Dr. Lacefield joined the University of Kentucky staff in 1974 as Extension Forage Specialist. He has authored and co-authored over 300 extension publications, papers, articles and book chapters. He is co-author of the book "Southern Forages". He developed and is senior author of a monthly newsletter and writes a monthly column for the Kentucky Cattlemen's Association magazine.

Dr. Lacefield has emphasized the team approach in his forage extension program. As evidenced by his list of publications, he has worked harmoniously with other agronomists in a complementary and unified program for the benefit of Kentucky's forage-livestock industry. In addition to working closely with other agronomists, Dr. Lacefield has served in the leadership role in developing programs to meet the ever changing needs of the forage-livestock industry of the state. He organized the Kentucky Alfalfa Conference in 1980 and has served as Chairman each year.

Dr. Lacefield is a member of many professional organizations including ASA, CSSA, CAST and AFGC. He serves on the Advisory Board of the Oregon Tall Fescue Commission and Oregon Clover Commission. He is secretary of the Forage and Grassland Foundation. He received the Merit Certificate and Medallion Award from the American Forage and Grassland Council, Public Service to Forage Award from the Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council and the U.K. Outstanding Extension Specialist award. He is a "Fellow" in the American Society of Agronomy and Crop Science Society of America. He was selected 1989 Alumnus of the Year by the College of Agriculture, Western Kentucky University. He received the 1991 Alfalfa Extension Award from the Certified Alfalfa Seed Council. In 1992, he received the American Society of Agronomy Agronomic Extension Education Award. He was selected as Progressive Farmer's "1993 Man of the Year in Agriculture". He was inducted into the Western Kentucky University "Hall of Distinguished Alumni" in October 1995. The Certified Alfalfa Seed Council honored him in 2001 with their Distinguished Service Award. In recognition of his leadership in the Kentucky Alfalfa Program, the Public Service to Alfalfa Award was named in his honor in 2000 by the Kentucky Forage & Grassland Council. Dr. Lacefield was inducted as an Honorary Member of the North American Alfalfa Improvement Conference in 2002 making the third Extension Forage Specialist ever inducted. The CSREES/USDA presented him with the 2008 Regional Award for Excellence in Extension on November 9, 2008.

Dr. Lacefield serves on a number of state and National boards and committees and is Past President of the American Forage and Grassland Council. Dr. Lacefield has traveled and lectured throughout the U.S. and abroad. In the last decade, he has traveled and lectured in Japan, China, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Australia, Canada, Argentina, Chile, Brazil, Uruguay, South Africa, England, Germany, Mexico, the Czech Republic, South Korea, Switzerland, Croatia, Slovenia and Hungary.

In addition to professional responsibility, he is in demand as a banquet speaker. Garry is married to the former Cheryl Cavender and has two sons, two granddaughters, and two grandsons.