Grazing, Health & Animal Rights

Our nineteenth consecutive Forages at KCA will be held from 2:00 – 4:00 on January 17, 2014. Our program theme is “Grazing – Health and Animal Rights”. Speakers include Dr. Garry Lacefield and Dr. Roy Burris from the University of Kentucky and back by popular demand will be the keynote speaker Dr. Peter Ballerstedt.

Theme: Grazing, Health and Animal Rights

2:00 Welcome – Dr. Garry Lacefield
2:10 Grazing: More Important Now than Ever – Dr. Garry Lacefield
3:00 Red Meat and Our Health: Separating Scientific Fact from Politics, Emotion, and Misinformation – Dr. Peter Ballerstedt
3:45 Discussion
4:00 Adjourn

Forage Variety Reports Now Available

My thanks to Mr. Gene Olsen for all his hard work in getting our 2013 Forage Variety tests harvested, summarized and published. Reports are now available on our website at http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage.

Heart of America Grazing Conference Will Help Producers Improve Forages

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. - Livestock producers, Extension educators and agribusiness professionals from around the Midwest interested in improving forages and pasture productivity should attend the Heart of America Grazing Conference Jan. 20-21.

The conference will be at the Clarion Hotel, 2480 Jonathan Moore Pike, Columbus, Ind. The conference, now in its 13th year, rotates among Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri and Ohio and features speakers from many states.

Jason Tower, Southern Indiana Purdue Agricultural Center superintendent, said the conference will highlight improved grazing management techniques and how producers can improve bottom lines and animal performance.

“Anytime we can have our animals grazing more days out of the year, it saves money and helps increase overall profitability, and it can also provide better feed quality for the animal,” Tower said.

The conference will kick off with an evening program and tradeshow on Jan. 20. Purdue Extension forage specialist Keith Johnson will discuss Indiana’s forage industry and contributions that are based in Indiana.

“The amount of pasture growth in late summer and into early fall is not as much as we would have liked it to have been,” he said.

“Hearts were Anna and Kentucky will help benefit between next spring.”

Johnson said pastures that were overgrazed the last couple years would have more stress and less productivity in the coming year. On Jan. 21, sessions will run from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and cover soil health, invasive species woodland grazing with goats and forage-finished versus grain-finished beef.

Registration is $65 per person for both days and $55 for an additional person from the same farm. One-day registration is $40 and $35 for a second person. Meals are included. After Dec. 20, full registration is $75 and one-day registration is $50. Meals are not guaranteed for those who register after Jan. 13.

Checks should be made payable to the Indiana Forage Council. Registration forms can be downloaded at https://ag.purdue.edu/agry/extension/Pages/grazing.aspx. Registration and payment should be sent to the Indiana Forage Council, c/o Keith Johnson, 915 W. State St., West Lafayette, IN 47907-2054.

A block of rooms has been reserved at the hotel at a rate of $84. Contact the Clarion Inn at 812-372-1541 by Dec. 20 and mention the Heart of America Grazing Conference to receive the discounted rate.

In addition to Purdue University Extension, conference sponsors are the Indiana Forage Council, Missouri Forage and Grassland Council, Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative, The Ohio State University Extension, University of Illinois Extension, University of Kentucky Extension, University of Missouri Extension, U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service and Indiana’s Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program. (SOURCE: Amanda Gee, Purdue University, Ag Answers 12-5-2013)

Dugger Brings Cotton Council Experience To National Hay Association

New executive director to start with New Year

The National Hay Association (NHA) will gain a wealth of trade association and membership services knowledge when its new executive director comes on board in January.

Paul Dugger, Nashville, TN, will take on the role being vacated by Don Kieffer, who will retire next month.

Dugger, recently a New Holland Agriculture hay and forage specialist, spent the bulk of his career with the National Cotton Council. He served as its Cotton Foundation assistant executive director, in charge of the day-to-day management of the research and education foundation, and was manager of special technical projects. Dugger coordinated the annual Beltwide Cotton Conferences and helped grow council and foundation membership.

Membership, he says, is the first thing NHA’s board would like him to focus on. “I take that to mean expansion of membership. To do that, you’ve got to have good membership services and clearly articulated benefits for members.”

When he comes on board, Dugger will assess and identify those areas that, you’ve got to have good membership and current members in an ongoing recruitment campaign. The association currently consists of 450 members. (SOURCE: eHay Weekly, November 26, 2013)
BERMUDAGRASS STEM MAGGOT FOUND IN ALLEN COUNTY

The bermudagrass stem maggot was found in three Allen County bermudagrass hayfields this year. It was discovered in Georgia in 2010. Native to Japan, Indonesia, India, and Hawaii, this small fly has spread rapidly across the Southeast, causing yield and quality losses in bermudagrass pastures and hayfields. Damage varies with the growth stage of the grass; numbers of flies present, which increases during the summer; and drought stress.

Maggots hatching from eggs laid on the plants attack at a node. Feeding kills leaf blades beyond the damaged area; the lower leaves stay green.

Figure 1. Yellowed bermudagrass stems caused by bermudagrass stem maggot. Infested fields have a frosted appearance.

Figure 2. Close-up of infested stem. The maggot usually leaves the stem before the terminal turns yellow.

Figure 3. Split infested stem showing shredded tissue and waste material produced by the maggot.

Figure 4. Bermudagrass stem maggot flies are about 1/8-inch long. The thorax is light gray; the abdomen is yellow with some distinct dark spots.

Research is underway to evaluate management options. While the acreage of bermudagrass grown for hay in Kentucky is small, growers should be watching for this insect in 2014. A sweep net is the best tool to use to check fields efficiently.

Information on management of this insect is available at - http://www.aces.edu/pubs/docs/A/ANR-1462/ANR-1462.pdf (SOURCE: Lee Townsend, Extension Entomologist and Steve Osborne, Allen County Agent for Agriculture & Natural Resources)

FARMLAND VALUE REACHES HISTORIC $8,716 STATEWIDE AVERAGE

AMES, Iowa — Average Iowa farmland value is estimated to be $8,716 per acre, an increase of 5.1 percent from 2012, according to results of the Iowa Land Value Survey conducted in November. Values increased in 2013 for the fourth year in a row and achieved historic peaks. The increase is similar to results of other recent Iowa farmland value surveys, including the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago and the Iowa Chapter of the Realtors Land Institute surveys. (SOURCE: Michael Duffy, Ann Johanns, Willy Klein, Iowa State University)

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