FORAGE NEWS

JULY 2007

Garry D. Lacefield and S. Ray Smith, Extension Forage Specialists • Christi Forsythe, Secretary

FORAGES LOSSES EXCEED $40 MILLION

Our best “conservative” estimates on hay losses is approximately $45 million resulting from the April freeze and below normal rainfall. Reports of yield reductions of 30-60% are very common across the state.

FORAGE & BEEF TOURS AT UKREC FIELD DAY

The University of Kentucky Field Day will be held July 26. Forages and Beef will be two of eleven tours running continuously throughout the day. The Forage tour will feature four stops.

FORAGES
Making Quality Hay and Reducing Storage Losses – Tom Keene
Teff and Other Summer Grasses – Tim Phillips
How Do New Forage Varieties Perform in Kentucky? – Gene Olson
The Beef tour will also offer four stops.

BEEF
Research Using the Calan Gate Feeding System – Roy Burnis, James Boling
Regulation of Protein Metabolism in Cattle – James Matthews, Kelly Brown
Forage Systems Research – James Randolph, Kevin Laurent
Estrus Synchronization Systems for Timed AI – Les Anderson

For more information on the other tours and activities, see the Field Day Website at:
http://www.ca.uky.edu/wkrec/FieldDayButtonPg.htm

GRAZING CONFERENCE DATE CHANGE

Due to circumstances beyond our control, we are changing our 8th Kentucky Grazing Conference from October 25 to October 30. We apologize for this inconvenience, but are pleased we were able to work this out with our host “Western Kentucky University Expo Center” and our speakers.

Please make this change on your calendars and we look forward to seeing you Tuesday, October 30 at the WKU Expo Center.

FORAGE SPOKESMAN NOMINATIONS

Forage Spokesman Nominations are now being accepted. To nominate a producer to compete in the KFGC Forage Spokesman contest, send name, address, and a 100 word or less description of their forage-livestock operation to Dr. Ray Smith, Plant and Soil Science Dept., 105 Plant Science Bldg., 1405 Veterans Road, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40546-0312 or e-mail raysmith1@uky.edu. Any Kentucky forage producer is eligible to compete. Only five producers will be selected to compete in the contest to be held at the Kentucky Grazing Conference at the WKU Expo Center in Bowling Green October 30. Contestants will be given 12 minutes to tell their forage story with 3 minutes for introduction and questions. The winner will represent Kentucky at the AFGC National competition.

KFGC AWARDS

Award nominations are now being accepted for KFGC Producer, Industry, Public Service-State, and Public Service-County Awards. To nominate a deserving individual, send a one-page nomination to Dr. Garry Lacefield, P.O. Box 469, Princeton, KY 42445, FAX: 270-365-2667 or e-mail: glacefield@uky.edu. Awards will be presented at the 8th Kentucky Grazing Conference October 30 at the WKU Expo Center in Bowling Green. For a history of KFGC Award recipients, see our website at:
http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage/KFGC%20Award%20Winners%20History.pdf

AFGC REPORT FROM PENNSYLVANIA

The recent AFGC meeting (June 24-26) in Pennsylvania was a tremendous success. Producers, Industry, Researchers, Extension Specialists, and Agents gathered to exchange ideas and tell what is working for them in their state. Kentucky was well represented with over 20 participants, 2nd in number only to the host state.

We are proud to announce that Todd Clark, producer in Fayette County, was selected 2nd best in the nation in the Forage Spokesperson contest. Congratulations Todd!!! Kentucky also had the most participants of any state in the Young Scientists Competition. Kudos to Linda McClanahan, Jesse Morrison, and Adam Probst for their hard work.

Garry Lacefield was recognized with the AFGC Presidential Citation.

Kentucky continued to be well represented at the AFGC board meeting held during the conference with President Bill Talley, past-President Ken Johnson, secretary Ray Smith, and board members Phil Howell, and Russell Hackley.

We look forward to seeing everyone reading this newsletter at the next AFGC meeting January 26-31 where we will be meeting jointly with the Society of Range Management in Louisville, KY.

TOP 14 INVASIVE SPECIES IN KENTUCKY

Bush honeysuckle (Lonicera maackii)
Japanese honeysuckle (Lonicera japonica)
Wintertcreeper (Euonymus fortunei)
Tree-of-heaven (Ailanthus altissima)
Multiﬂora rose (Rosa multiflora)
Kudzu (Pueraria lobata)
Musk-thistle (Carduus nutans)
Poison hemlock (Conium maculatum)
Sudden oak death (Pytophthora ramorum)
Hemlock wooly adelgid (Adelges tsugae)
Gypsy moth (Lymantria dispar L.)
Fire ant (Solenopsis invicta)
Emerald ash borer (Agrilus planipennis)

(SOURCE: UK’s Invasive Species Working Group IN The Magazine, Summer 2007)

For more forage information, visit our UK Forage Extension Website at: http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage
that brings us to our second setback…extremely dry months of May and June. It appears that yields on all first cutting hay crops this year are averaging about 50% of normal. That means that cattle farmers in Kentucky are going to have to be much better managers of their forage crops in order to get through the upcoming summer and the winter of '07-'08. On the hay side, storing hay properly to reduce storage losses is a must. Having quality forage analysis performed on the hay will insure that ration balancing is accurate and once again help eliminate any waste. (SOURCE: Tom Keene, UK Hay Marketing Specialist)