



FORAGE NEWS

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

October 2007

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KENTUCKY GRAZING CONFERENCE

The 8th Kentucky Grazing Conference will be held at the WKU Expo Center in Bowling Green on October 30.

The program committee has done an excellent job in putting together a most interesting and timely program. Registration will begin at 8:00 a.m. Central Time with the first presentation at 9:00.

Program

- 8:00 Registration, Visit Exhibits, Silent Auction
- 8:45 Welcome
- 9:00 Recovering from the "Freeze" and "Drought" of 2007 – *Ray Smith*
- 9:20 Does Grazing Method Matter? – *Garry Lacefield*
- 9:40 Options for Summer Grazing – *David Ditsch*
- 10:00 Break, Visit Exhibits, Silent Auction
- 10:30 Our Experience With "Teff" (Summer Love Grass) in Kentucky – *Bob Jaynes & Tim Phillips*
- 11:00 Techniques for Reducing MUD Problems and Improving Pasture Abused Areas – *Ken Johnson*
- 11:30 NRCS and Extension – Working Together on Grazing – *Jimmy Henning & Mike Hubbs*
- 12:00 Lunch
- 12:45 KFGC Business Meeting / KFGC Awards / Silent Auction Results
- 1:15 Forage Spokesman Contest
- 3:00 Adjourn

As always, we will have exhibits and a silent auction in the Lobby. Registration if \$15.00 (\$5.00 students) to be paid at the door. Registration fee includes, breaks, lunch, proceedings, and other literature. Advanced registration is not necessary.

In addition to an outstanding program, KFGC will present their Annual Awards followed by the Forage Spokesman Contest. If you have questions, contact Garry Lacefield (270-365-7541, Ext. 202) or Christi Forsythe (270-365-7541, Ext. 221).

KY GRAZING CONFERENCE HOSTS POPULAR FORAGE SPOKESPERSON CONTEST

The Forage Spokesperson Contest will be held at the KY Grazing Conference Oct 30 in Bowling Green. We look forward to interesting presentations from producers across Kentucky including Mac Stone (Scott County), John McGlone (Boyd County), Lowell Clifford (Harrison County), and Barry Drury (Woodford County). The winner of the annual competition will go on to represent KY at the 2008 AFGC/SRM meeting Jan. 26-31 in Louisville. Most importantly though, you will hear how four different producers have made grazing work for them and I'm sure you'll take home new ideas that can be applied on your farm.

GRAZING CORN STALKS

A valuable resource. Grazing corn stalks has been a common practice for many beef producers in Kentucky. Dry spring calving cows can make good use of this resource left after corn harvests. Illinois workers showed cost of 5-15¢ per day for cows grazing corn stalks. Work in Missouri using temporary fence to allocate a weeks feed supply were able to graze for 60 days at a cost of 5¢ per day. Workers in Iowa showed that each acre of corn stalks could replace one-half ton of hay and provided 33 days of grazing per acre. In this study using \$60/ton hay each acre of corn stalks was worth thirty dollars.

If you are going to graze corn stalks, remember that founder can occur if animals get too much grain. This is usually associated with spills or piles of corn associate with truck loading areas, etc. Prussic acid can be a problem with johnsongrass, along fence rows or other areas that had not been sprayed. The most critical time is the first light, non-killing frost. If there is johnsongrass in the field, remove animals before the first frost. Grazing is safe 48 hours after the plants are frozen. Nitrates could be a problem on drought stressed corn. If in doubt, test. For more information on nitrate testing, see our website on "Drought - Forage Issues" www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage/Drought.htm.

NUTRIENT LOSSES FROM HARVESTED HAY OR CROP RESIDUE

Corn Stover (rolled and removed)

<u>8,000 lb/A (150 lb/A)</u>				
<u>N=55 lb/A</u>	<u>P₂O₅=20 lb/A</u>		<u>K₂O=85 lb/A</u>	
\$16.00	+ \$8.00	+	\$26.00	= \$56.00/A
				P&K only \$34.00
<u>6,000 lb/A (110 lb/A)</u>				
<u>N=40 lb/A</u>	<u>P₂O₅=20 lb/A</u>		<u>K₂O=85 lb/A</u>	
\$16.00	+ \$6.00	+	\$20.00	= \$42.00/A
				P&K only \$26.00

***If stalks are grazed only 20% of the above nutrients will be removed, however manure and urine will not be evenly distributed.

Fescue or Other Grasses

<u>2,000 lb = 1 ton</u>				
<u>N=35 lb/ton</u>	<u>P₂O₅=27 lb/ton</u>		<u>K₂O=53 lb/ton</u>	
\$14.00	+ \$8.00	+	\$12.00	= \$34.00/ton
				P&K only \$20.00

Soybeans (double cropped) V12

<u>N=25 lb/A</u>	<u>P₂O₅=10 lb/A</u>		<u>K₂O=25 lb/A</u>	
\$10.00	+ \$3.00	+	\$6.00	= \$19.00/A
				P&K only \$9.00

Prices used	N =	.40¢/lb
	P ₂ O ₅ =	.30¢/lb
	K ₂ O =	.23¢/lb

(SOURCE: Dr. Lloyd Murdock, University of Kentucky)

FORAGES - LOUISVILLE - JANUARY - BIG EVENT

What is promising to be the largest "Forage Related" crowd will meet in Louisville January 26-31. The American Forage & Grassland Council and the Society of Range Management are joining forces for this unique event. The conference promises something for everyone interested in Forage-Range-Animal Agriculture. Over 400 papers have been accepted for the meeting. There will be several half-day and full-day symposia's devoted to timely cutting-edge issues such as Fescue Toxicosis, Forage legumes, Keys to Forage Profitability, Invasive Species and the list goes on. The theme for the Conference is Building Bridges: Grasslands to Rangelands. A detailed program will be available in the next few weeks. Make plans to join us at the Galt House January 26-31. Check out the AFGC/SRM website for additional information:

http://www.rangelands.org/louisville2008/louisville2008_index.shtml

BIOTECHNOLOGY IN FORAGE CROPS: UPDATE FOR KY FARMERS

On Thursday September 20 a special symposium was held in honor of Dr. Glen Collins with his retirement coming up. Glen was the primary leader in the emergence of the Plant and Soil Sciences Department as a world leader in Plant Biotechnology. One of the themes of the conference was the practical application of biotechnology for forage crops now and in the near future. Let me give you just a few highlights.

Alfalfa – Molecular genetic research in alfalfa is leading to the development of varieties with improved digestibility. Lignin has been reduced significantly and digestibility has been increased in experimental lines by 10% to 20%. To put this into context, a 10% improvement in alfalfa digestibility in all varieties would lead to a \$350 million increase in profits for milk and beef production. Interestingly, more digestible forage would also mean less fiber to pass through the animals digestive system and 2.8 million tons less manure to deal with.

Researchers at the Noble Foundation and Forage Genetics have succeeded in producing experimental lines of alfalfa that produce tannins in the leaves. These lines have sufficient tannin production to reduce the chances for bloat and to increase bypass protein (therefore more efficient protein utilization).

These were just a few of the practical applications that are now coming from biotechnology with forages. The rate of progress and improvement will continue to increase substantially in the next few years.

THE EFFECTS OF FEEDING SERICEA LESPEDEZA HAY ON GROWTH RATE OF GOATS NATURALLY INFECTED WITH GASTROINTESTINAL NEMATODES

The following abstract was presented at the 2007 AFGC Conference in Pennsylvania.

Goat production is increasing in the USA due to high ethnic demand, but infection with gastrointestinal nematodes (GIN) is a major constraint to the industry. Increasing GIN resistance to chemical anthelmintics world-wide has led to the development of alternative control strategies, including use of forages containing condensed tannins (CT). *Sericea lespedeza* [SL, *Lespedeza cuneata* (Dum-Cours.) G. Don], a high CT forage, has been shown to reduce GIN levels in goats when fed as hay, but little is known about its effect on growth rate in young goats. An experiment was designed using infected and noninfected male kids (Kiko X Spanish, 6 mo. old) fed diets consisting of 75% hay [SL or bermudagrass (BG; *Cynodon dactylon* (L.) Pers.)] and 25% concentrate (n = 10 per treatment). The kids were weighed every 2 weeks, and fecal and blood samples taken weekly for fecal egg count (FEC) and packed cell volume (PCV) determination, respectively. Parasite infection levels were relatively low in both infected groups by the end of the trial, but SL infected kids had

consistently lower (P<0.05) FEC and higher (P<0.05) PCV than the BG infected goats. The SL infected and non-infected kids gained 0.22 and 0.24 lbs/d, respectively, compared with 0.16 and 0.18 lbs/d in BG-fed kids. Feeding SL hay reduced GIN infection levels and increased animal performance compared with BG hay, suggesting that the CT in this plant had beneficial nutritional and anti-parasitic properties. (SOURCE: *The Forage Leader*, IN AFGC President's Message, September/October 2007)

SOUTHEASTERN DROUGHT DRIVES SEARCH FOR HAY

The drought in the Southeast has livestock producers on a desperate search to find hay. "Lots of people have been or are selling cows," says Tom Keene, University of Kentucky hay marketing specialist. "Many of our Kentucky beef cattle producers are being forced to think outside of the box when it comes to feeding their livestock. Logistically, I don't think we could bring enough hay into the state to cover the feed needs we have." Kentucky's growing season started with the lowest hay carryover in recent memory. Four weeks of abnormally warm weather brought good early season forage growth. But an Easter weekend freeze damaged taller-growing legumes and new seedlings, resulting in spring hay production that on average was 50% of normal. Then rainfall was below normal for two and a half consecutive months. Some rain in late June and early July helped pastures a bit, but the state is still very short on feed, Keene says. The economic consequences for livestock and hay producers are still being tallied. The University of Kentucky offers some economic estimates and a variety of resources in an online Drought Information page at www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage/Drought.htm.

Delta Farm Press reports similar difficult times in neighboring Tennessee as that state's livestock producers look for hay. Arkansas Secretary of Agriculture Dick Bell recently was asked by the Tennessee Department of Agriculture for help in locating hay for the Tennessee livestock industry. Arkansas producers with surplus hay are urged to enter their contact information on a computerized hay database at: hayproducers.uaex.edu/. Only Arkansas producers are allowed to enter hay information on this site; however, anyone looking for hay may access the information. Many other states have similar systems in place.

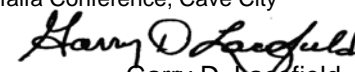
South Carolina Commissioner of Agriculture Hugh Weathers is urging those who have hay for sale and those who need hay to visit the USDA Farm Service Agency's eHayNet (www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=online&subject=landing&to pic=hay). It allows farmers in every state to share 'Need Hay' and 'Have Hay' ads online. Weathers suggests that producers in his state also check with local feed stores and extension offices, other livestock owners and hay brokers. Peter Wilkins, South Carolina Cattleman's Association, is another contact for those who have or need cow hay. Contact Wilkins at 864-812-1837.

USDA recently designated 149 Georgia counties as primary natural disaster areas, too. The Georgia forages drought information page is at commodities.caes.uga.edu/fieldcrops/forages/drought.htm. Visit the Georgia Farm Bureau Hay Directory at www.gfb.org/comm/hay.htm.

Programs that help pay for transporting hay to and within North Carolina can be viewed at www.ncagr.com/HayAlert. (SOURCE: *eHay Weekly*, September 25, 2007)

UPCOMING EVENTS

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| OCT 30 | 8 th Kentucky Grazing Conference, WKU Expo Center, Bowling Green |
| 2008 | |
| JAN 7-8 | Heart of America Grazing Conference, Columbia, MO |
| JAN 11 | Forages at KCA, Lexington |
| JAN 26-FEB 1 | SRM/AFGC Forage Conference, Louisville |
| FEB 21 | 28 th Kentucky Alfalfa Conference, Cave City |


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