



# FORAGE NEWS

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

## September 2007

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

### FORAGE SPOKESMAN NOMINATIONS

#### DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 20

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](mailto: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.

### CRP – FORAGE QUALITY

We have had many calls since the release of CRP land for hay and grazing. The major question has been "What is the quality of the forage?" This is a good and important question and one that we do not have a good database. First, there is tremendous variation based on species, density, previous management (bushhogged, etc.) In general, quality would be low to medium at best. Some samples have been very low: example – Crude Protein 3.5%, RFV 58 and NDF 80. I saw one report that had protein over 9.5% and TDN of 58%. The only way to accurately know is test, however, be realistic about the quality. Remember corn crop residue is usually about 5% protein and 50% TDN for comparison.

### WET CHEMISTRY RESULTS OF HAY BALED FROM CRP FIELDS IN HOPKINS CO. - AUG. 2007

Sample	Type	Crude Protein ----- % -----	TDN
1	Eastern Gamagrass	5.89	57.62
2	Eastern Gamagrass	5.75	57.12
3	Indiangrass Big/Little Bluestem	5.51	56.77
4	Indiangrass Big/Little Bluestem	6.45	55.70 56.40
5	Indiangrass	5.42	
6	Ky 31 Fescue	8.04	58.50
Results from non-CRP hay fields:			
8	Broomsedge	6.53	57.32
9	Sudex	8.65	59.41

SOURCE: George Kelley, Hopkins County Extension Agent for Agriculture & Natural Resources, Madisonville, KY

### KFGC AWARDS

#### DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 20

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: [glacefie@uky.edu](mailto:glacefie@uky.edu). Awards will be presented at the 8<sup>th</sup> 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>

### STOCKPILING TALL FESCUE

Under ideal conditions, we would already have our nitrogen on and green grass growing for stockpiling. Nothing has seemed very ideal this year. It's not too late to add nitrogen for stockpiling. WATER is critical – if we can get ample rain and have some good growing conditions, it is possible to get 20 pounds of dry matter for each pound of nitrogen. The later we apply, less rain we get, and fewer good growing days, can each reduce the nitrogen use efficiency. To assist with the decision making process, Drs. Greg Halich and Ray Smith have developed a decision aid "Nitrogen Application Decision-Aid for Late Summer Pastures (Stockpiling)". It is available on the Agricultural Economics webpage and the Forage webpage.

### COST PER DAY ON STOCKPILED FESCUE/FALL FERTILIZATION

Lbs of DM per lb of N	Cost per lb of Nitrogen		
	\$0.50	\$0.55	\$0.60
20 : 1	\$0.89	\$0.98	\$1.07
25 : 1	\$0.71	\$0.79	\$0.86
30 : 1	\$0.59	\$0.65	\$0.71
Note: Considers only additional fescue production from fertilizer			

SOURCE: Kenny Burdine, University of Kentucky

### COST PER DAY ON SOYHULLS/LIMIT HAY

Cost per ton of soyhulls	Cost per ton of hay		
	\$100	\$125	\$150
\$120	\$0.81	\$0.85	\$0.89
\$140	\$0.92	\$0.96	\$1.00
\$160	\$1.03	\$1.07	\$1.11
*Ration: 11 lbs soyhulls, 3 lbs grass hay			

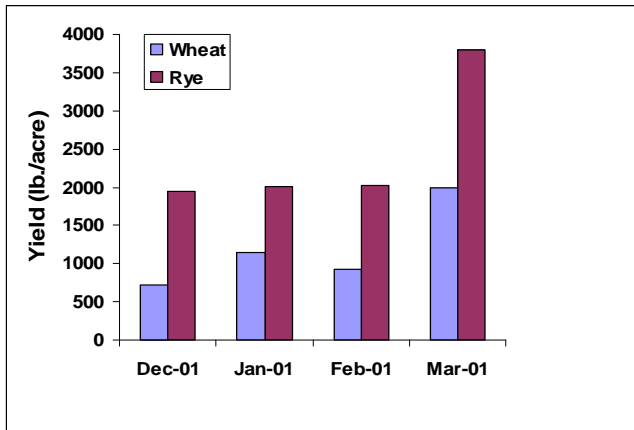
SOURCE: Kenny Burdine, University of Kentucky

## CAUTION WHEN SEEDING INTO DROUGHT DAMAGED PASTURES

We have received many calls about seeding various small grains, ryegrass, legumes or other grasses. Assuming adequate moisture, all of the above can be seeded now; however, we DON'T recommend seeding any or all of these in thick stands of tall fescue or Kentucky Bluegrass. Although the approach is sometimes successful, we have seen many more failures than we have successes. Competition from the existing grass after rain and cooler temperatures can limit or drastically reduce new seedings. The existing grass that has been dormant for weeks already has a good root system and can quickly take advantage of moisture when it arrives.

There are many opportunities for seeding winter annuals into stubble, prepared seedbeds, no-tilled into grass/weed fields that have been chemically killed and into very thin grass fields that have weeds under control.

### Rye produces more winter pasture than wheat

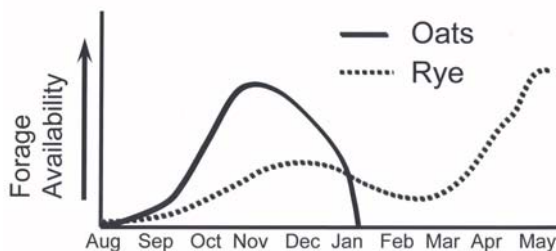


### Animal Performance on Wheat and Rye Pasture

Type	ADG lb/d	Total Gain Lb/acre
Wheat	1.8	180
Rye	1.6	336

Horn et al., 1981

### Oats and Rye in Combination



MU-FSRC

### Spring Oats and Rye

Specie lbs/ac	Seeding method	Date	Fertilizer	Cost	Yield
Bin run oats, 80 lb	No-til after wheat	8/5/02	90 lbs urea	\$41.55	4.5 - 5.5 ton
Bin run oats, 80 lb	No-til after wheat	8/14/03	6000 gal. hog manure	\$23.40	3800-4200 lbs
Bin run oats, 80 lb	No-til after wheat	8/15/03	70 lbs urea	\$38.20	1 - 1.5 ton
Cert oats, treated, 80	Cons. Til after wheat	8/20/03	90 lbs urea	\$46.90	1.5 - 2 ton
Cert oats, treated, 80	No-til after wheat	8/20/03	90 lbs urea	\$40.90	.5 - 1 ton
Cert oats, treated, 80	Aerial into corn	9/5/03	0	\$21.98	600-1600 lbs, plus fodder
Rye, 100 lbs	Aerial into corn	9/5/03	0	\$26.55	500-1000 lbs, plus fodder

Ohio State University

## NAFA SUMMIT PROMOTES ALFALFA FOR BIOFUEL

If renewable fuels are to account for 25% of the U.S. energy supply by 2025 (25x25), a number of crops will have to be utilized, and alfalfa should be one of them. That was the primary message delivered at a biofuel summit in Washington, D.C., last week. Presented by the National Alfalfa & Forage Alliance (NAFA), its purpose was to make lawmakers and others aware of alfalfa's potential as a renewable energy source, says Beth Nelson, the new organization's president.

Eighty-eight people attended, says Nelson, including representatives from the Department of Energy (DOE) and USDA-ARS, university researchers and congressional staff. "It was NAFA's first large event, and we had really good representation from the industry as well," says Nelson.

She believes "some good first steps" were made in achieving the summit's goal. DOE's biofuel focus so far has been mostly on switchgrass. "But I think they realize, as did most of our attendees, that if we are going to meet 25x25, it's going to come from a number of crops," says Nelson. "Alfalfa is positioned nicely for that because it's grown on 21 million acres across the country and we have a good infrastructure. So some of the hurdles that switchgrass has to overcome as far as infrastructure is concerned, we already have in place."

Speakers included a National Corn Growers Association director, officials from USDA-ARS and DOE, and a vice president of Abengoa, a bioenergy company. To get a CD of the proceedings, email NAFA at [nafa@comcast.net](mailto:nafa@comcast.net). (SOURCE: eHay Weekly, Aug 14, 2007)

### CONSIDER ANNUAL RYEGRASS AS A HIGH QUALITY FORAGE OPTION

Annual ryegrass provides one of the highest quality forages available. Its advantages over small grains include rapid regrowth, high quality, and continued production into early summer, but its fall production is limited compared to cereal rye. Recommended seeding date is early August through early October. Late September plantings limit fall grazing, but these stands will still produce excellent early spring growth. Seeding rate for pure stands is 20 to 30 lb/acre or 12 to 15 lb/acre when seeded with a small grain or legume. Seeding can be made into a prepared seedbed, no-tilled into killed sods, crop residue fields, or dormant warm season grasses. Annual ryegrass should not be seeded into a thick, vigorous stand of a cool-season perennial grass, such as tall fescue, because competition will be excessive for the emerging seedlings.

Make sure to only plant varieties that have proven winterhardiness for Kentucky. For example, the long term standard variety for the southern U.S. is Gulf, but this variety often suffers significant winterkill in Kentucky. If growth in early summer is important, then choose a variety from UK yield test that continues to grow in June. Check with your local seed dealer for this information or see the annual ryegrass variety test reports or the long term summary report for yield and winter survival at the UK Forage website: [www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage](http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage).

Based on variety test yields in Lexington, KY annual ryegrass has consistently produced 2 1/2 to 4 tons/acre and sometimes more. When planted at or before early September hay and silage yields the last 5 years have averaged: December - 1/2 to 1 ton/acre, mid-April - 1 to 2 tons/acre, mid-May - 1 to 2 tons/acre, and June - 1/3 to 1/2 ton/acre. Yields will be similar under grazing, but spring grazing can start in late March and continue at 3 to 4 week intervals into June. Annual ryegrass requires relatively high N requirements, but it is efficient at putting N into high quality growth. For maximum growth recommended rates are 40 to 50 lb N/acre fall, 40 to 60 at spring green-up, and 40 to 60 after first cutting.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

OCT 30 8<sup>th</sup> 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<sup>th</sup> Kentucky Alfalfa Conference, Cave City

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