

Dr. Ray Smith is a native of Georgia and received his undergraduate degree from Asbury College (now Asbury University) in Kentucky in 1983. After teaching high school biology for two years he entered a graduate degree program in Agronomy and Plant Breeding at the University of Georgia. From 1991-2001, Ray held a research, teaching and extension position at the University of Manitoba, Canada with a focus on alfalfa and perennial grass breeding, seed production and forage management. He was the Forage Extension Specialist at Virginia Tech from 2001-2004 and is now Professor and Extension Specialist at the University of Kentucky and serves as an adjunct professor at Asbury University. Ray is the current chair of the Continuing Committee for the International Grassland Congress and past President of the American Forage and Grassland Council. He has published 38 articles in refereed journals, presented 150 papers at professional conferences, written over 100 extension publications, and given over 600 extension presentations. Ray has been the advisor for 13 master's students, 4 PhD's, 5 Post-docs, and 19 senior research students. His current extension activities include working closely with county agents and producers; conducting applied forage research for Kentucky and the transition zone; helping organize state, regional, national, and international forage conferences; and writing forage extension publications. His current research projects include: evaluating forage varieties for grazing tolerance and yield, developing forage and biomass production systems, pasture evaluation methods, and developing computer teaching models.