**FORAGE NEWS**

For more forage information, visit our UK Forage Extension Website at:  [http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage](http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage)

**AUGUST 2006**

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

**KFGC AWARDS NOMINATIONS**

Nominations are now being accepted for all KFGC Awards including: Producer, Industry and Public (State and County). The awards will be presented at the 7th Kentucky Grazing Conference in Lexington on November 21, 2006. A list of previous award winners is available at [www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage](http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage) go directly to KFGC Award History.

If you want to nominate a deserving individual, send a one page nomination to Garry Lacefield, Research & Education Center, P.O. Box 469, Princeton, KY 42445 or by e-mail to glacefie@uky.edu. Nomination deadline is October 1, 2006.

**FORAGE SPOKESMAN NOMINATIONS**

The Kentucky Forage & Grassland Council is now accepting nominations for the Forage Spokesman Contest to be held during the 7th Kentucky Grazing Conference in Lexington on November 21, 2006. Mr. Bill Payne from Lincoln County is our reigning Kentucky winner and also the national AFGC Forage Spokesman. Kentucky has more National Forage Spokesman winners than any other state.

If you would like to nominate a producer who has an outstanding forage program and who would be willing to share his/her experiences, please send a one-page nomination to Dr. Ray Smith, Plant & Soil Science Dept., 105 Plant Science Bldg., 1405 Veterans Road, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40546-0312 or e-mail at raysmith1@uky.edu. Nominations are now being accepted for all KFGC Awards including: Producer, Industry and Public (State and County). The awards will be presented at the 7th Kentucky Grazing Conference in Lexington on November 21, 2006. A list of previous award winners is available at [www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage](http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage) go directly to KFGC Award History.

Dr. Morris Bitzer, Dr. Greg Schwab, Dr. David Ditsch at 606-666-2438 Ext. 231. (SOURCE: David Ditsch, UK 2006-2007 Forage Extension Specialist)

**UK ROBINSON STATION TO HOST COLLEGE OF AG FIELD DAY**

On September 28, 2006, the University of Kentucky, College of Agriculture will be hosting their All Commodity Field Day at the Robinson Station located in Quicksand, Kentucky. Registration for the following morning workshops will begin at 8:30 a.m. EST at the Robinson Station. Workshops will conclude at 2:30 p.m. There will be a $5.00 charge if you would like to purchase lunch.

- Managing Steep Terrain for Year-Round Grazing in KY
- Basic Horse Management
- Introduction to Goat Production
- Farmers Market Workshop

The afternoon program (begins at 3:30 p.m.) will consist of the following wagon tours of on-going field research and a wide variety of demonstrations and displays for adults and youth:

**Agronomy Tour A**
- Forages for Goat Production – Brandon Sears
- Forage Variety Testing Program – Dr. Ray Smith

**Agronomy Tour B**
- Nitrogen Fertilizer Management and Options – Dr. Greg Schwab
- Sweet Sorghum Variety Trial – Dr. Morris Bitzer

**KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**Forage Testing Program**

The Kentucky Department of Agriculture offers a forage testing service which provides nutritional value information. A KDA staff member will take sample(s) of hay and/or haylage at the farm and analyze them in the KDA Forage Laboratory located in Frankfort. Tested forages can mean higher profit, whether feeding cattle, horses, goats, sheep or other livestock. By knowing the nutritional value, you can minimize your cost and maximize your production.

Forage testing helps to determine fair market value and an equitable price. By keeping a forage journal, testing helps in comparing forage quality year-to-year. The Department charges a $10 fee per lot (same field same cutting) for the service. The producer receives an analysis of the forage’s nutritional value and an “Interpreting Forage Quality Report” guide.

Educational programs of the Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service serve all people regardless of race, color, age, sex, religion, disability, or national origin. UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY, KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AND KENTUCKY COUNTIES, COOPERATING.
The Kentucky Department of Agriculture’s Forage Testing Program follows standards outlined by the National Forage Testing Association (NFTA). Your local Extension Agent can assist you with your winter feed ration.

Livestock farmers who need hay can find it right here in Kentucky. Listings of farms with hay for sale can be found on the Hay and Forage Program page of the Kentucky Department of Agriculture’s Web site, www.kyagr.com.

“Last summer’s drought has affected pastures and hay crops through much of the Commonwealth, but farmers in some parts of the state have been able to make a hay crop,” Agriculture Commissioner Richie Farmer said. “The Hay and Forage Program page enables buyers and sellers to find each other.”

If the hay is to be sold, the staff will make a visual evaluation of the forage to use in the listing on the Hay Sales Directory page. Listings on the Hay Sales Directory page brings the consumer and buyers and sellers to find each other.

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There are four people who work with the Forage Testing Program; Kimberly Field and Bryn Fallis work the lab in Frankfort, Jim Wade covers the middle western area and Gary Green covers the far western part of the state (see region listing below).

The Frankfort lab and Gary Green take appointments for the Forage Testing Van. The Forage Testing Van is outfitted and used for educational purposes; the “Van” can be booked for hay contests, association meetings, fairs, etc.

We work closely with Dr. Garry Lacefield, Extension Forage Specialist; Dr. Ray Smith, Extension Forage Specialist; and Tom Keene, Hay Marketing Specialist with the University of Kentucky. There is a great forage website sponsored by the University of Kentucky that contains forage information, publications and links; their website is www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage.

For more information on the Forage Testing Program, call the toll-free Hay Hotline 1-800-248-4628, or contact Kimberly Field by e-mail at kimberly.field@ky.gov.

Following is a list of counties per region:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Rate lb/acre (pure stand)</th>
<th>Rate lb/acre (mixtures)</th>
<th>Optimum date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tall fescue</td>
<td>15-25</td>
<td>10-15</td>
<td>8/15-9/15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orchardgrass</td>
<td>15-20</td>
<td>5-10</td>
<td>8/15-9/15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alfalfa</td>
<td>15-20</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>4/1-5/1, 8/15-9/1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Clover</td>
<td>10-12</td>
<td>6-8</td>
<td>3/15-4/15, Feb. for frost seeding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Clover</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>Same as red clover</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. Use the best seeding method

In general, planting into a conventionally tilled seedbed is the most effective establishment method. It is essential that forage grasses and legumes are planted no deeper than ¼ to ½ in. Planting too deep is one of the most common reasons for stand failure. A fine, firm seedbed is essential to ensure that there is good soil to seed contact and that seed is not planted too deep. No-till seeding is often preferred on sloping land, works well into crop stubble or into stands killed with glyphosate. Remember, surface broadcast or frost seeding is only recommended for red and white clover seeded during February onto a closely grazed or clipped sod.

5. Control competition

Overgrazing newly seeded areas is one of the major causes of seedling failures. A few brief grazings can be tolerated. Remember that newly seeded stands often require 12 or more months to develop a fully established sod.

Follow the guidelines listed above, refer to the establishment publications listed on the forage website www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage, and receive timely rains and you can enjoy high yielding, high quality pasture and hay stands for many years to come.

**GUIDELINES FOR SUCCESSFUL FORAGE ESTABLISHMENT**

Follow the guidelines below to increase your chances of success in establishing forage crops. Also refer to establishment publications on the forage website www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage.

**MORE HAY.....**

This time last year the entire state of Kentucky was beginning to feel the effects of very droughty conditions. These dry conditions continued right on through until very late in the year. As a matter of fact, moisture levels were so low that most producers were unable to make a second cutting of grass type hays. Even alfalfa struggled to make any appreciable amount of hay past first cutting.

Oh, what a difference a year makes....although we were below normal rainfall for May and June, July has started off with some localized areas of significant rainfall. If these timely rains continue it will be very likely that a good second cutting of grass hay will be available this year.

This hay is usually high in quality and can be very soft and extremely palatable for livestock if made at the right stage of maturity. It is almost all leafy material with just a few seed heads and stalks in the crop. This type hay, if baled correctly, can make some extremely nice hay for the horse market. Good Luck!!! (Tom Keene, UK Hay Marketing Specialist)

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**SEP 12** KFGC Field Day, Dobbs Shady Meadow Farm, Campbell County

**SEP 28** UK College of Ag Field Day, Robinson Station

**NOV 21** Kentucky Grazing Conference, Lexington

**DEC 10-13** Third National Conference on Grazing Lands, St. Louis, MO 2007

**JAN 11-13** KCA Annual Convention & Trade Show, Lexington

**JAN 24-25** Heart of America Grazing Conference, Mt. Vernon, IL

**FEB 22** 27th Kentucky Alfalfa Conference, Cave City

Garry D. Lacefield
Extension Forage Specialist
August 2006