

## **Advanced Master Cattleman**

# **“Forages Module”**

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### **Introduction:**

Forages form the backbone of Kentucky’s livestock industry. They are the primary feed for the state’s beef cattle, horse, goat, sheep industries and provide the major portion of feed for the state’s dairy industry. Beef cattle production is one of the most important enterprises for producers in Kentucky and this module will highlight how enhanced forage management leads to improved farm efficiency and profitability.

### **Forages Section One and Two:**

Using Plant Growth and Development to Manage Pasture and Hay Production

This section will explain in layman’s terms the growth processes that control plant growth and development including: photosynthesis, carbohydrate storage and growth, rate of regrowth, root growth, nutrient uptake, competition in mixed stands, grazing tolerance, etc... This section will provide a basic understanding of the “how” and “why” for a wide range of forage management recommendations. For example, after attending this session participants will understand why warm season forages are more efficient than cool season forages with water use, heat tolerance, and nitrogen use. They will understand why rotational grazing results in improved pasture growth, carrying capacity, and stand longevity. They will know why cutting hay based on growth stage results in high yield, high quality, and enhanced stand longevity. Most importantly, participants will be able to apply the knowledge they have learned across all aspects of forage production.

### **Delivery:**

The forages modules will be delivered in two 3 hour sessions. Agents will be encouraged to provide a meal or substantial break with the session dependant on timing of the program. Agents will be required to handle all details related to the meeting location, participant enrollment and communication. They will also be expected to play a major role in advertising the program and recruiting participants.