MARCH 2005

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

SPRING GRAZING SCHOOL

The Kentucky Spring Grazing School will be held at the Morehead State University Expo Center in Morehead, KY. The School will start at 8:00 a.m. EST on April 20 and conclude at 3:30 on April 21. The two-day school will feature classroom and field exercises.

Cost for the Grazing School is $100.00 and includes Grazing notebook, handouts, refreshments, three meals and a copy of Southern Forages.

To register, make check payable to the Kentucky Forage & Grassland Council and send to Rebecca Smith, 400 W.P. Garrigus Building, Lexington, KY 40546-0215. For more information contact Dr. Donna Amaral-Phillips at 859-257-7642 (damaral@uky.edu)

ALFALFA AWARD WINNERS

The Kentucky Alfalfa Awards were presented at the 25th Kentucky Alfalfa Conference in Cave City on February 24. The 2005 Award recipients were:

Charlie Schnitzler Producer Award - Roy Reichenbach
Warren Thompson Industry Award - Barney Booher
Garry Lacefield Public Service Award - Ken Johnson

Congratulations Roy, Barney and Ken, we are very proud of and for you.

HAY CONTEST WINNERS

Congratulations to the following for winning awards for highest quality alfalfa and alfalfa-grass mixture during the 2004 growing season. Awards were presented during the 25th Kentucky Alfalfa Conference in Cave City on February 24.

2004 Alfalfa Hay Contest Winners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alfalfa-Grass</th>
<th>Alfalfa</th>
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<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>Matthew Glenn Farms</td>
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<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>Davis and Davis</td>
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<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>John Nowak</td>
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<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>John McCoy</td>
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<td>September</td>
<td>Mark Flynn</td>
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Mr. John McCoy from Bowling Green received the overall award for the highest analysis during the year. Congratulations to our winners.

My thanks to Commissioner Richie Farmer and all the staff within the Kentucky Department of Agriculture Hay Testing Program for sampling, testing and summarizing the data. My special thanks to John Mark Miller for his attention to details and professionalism in conducting the Hay Quality Contest.

NEW GRASS SEED DVD AVAILABLE

The Oregon Seed Industry has recently released a new DVD titled “Oregon Quality Grass Seed Production.” This 13½ minute DVD illustrates why Oregon is the Grass Seed Capital of the World. Several scenes were filmed here in Kentucky this past spring. My thanks to Mark Ecol and Agricultural Communications for making this available for loan. If you wish to view a copy, contact Ag. Communications Services, Visual Media Library (859-257-7233) or on the web at http://www.ca.uky.edu/agc/faculty_staff the reference # is DAG-0027.

TOM KEENE JOINS UK FORAGE TEAM

Mr. Tom Keene has accepted the Hay Marketing Specialist position in the Department of Plant & Soil Science, College of Agriculture, University of Kentucky, effective April 1. Tom has over twenty years experience working in the area of hay marketing. He has been an important member of the Kentucky Forage Team having served in many capacities with KFGC including board member. He is Past President of the American Forage & Grassland Council. He has been a “regular” at the Kentucky Alfalfa Conference and was a featured speaker on several conference programs. We are excited about Tom joining our UK Forage Team and look forward to working with him in his new position. Tom – Welcome Aboard!

ROUNDUP READY ALFALFA

Glyphosate-resistant crops, also known as “Roundup Ready” (RR) have become an important part of cropping systems in the United States. In 2004, approximately 85 percent of soybean acreage was occupied by RR varieties. Alfalfa (Medicago sativa) is the nation’s third most important crop in economic value, and it occupies more than 22 million acres in the United States (USDA 2004). It is considered the premier forage crop. It is the primary feed for dairy production, and is commonly fed to beef cattle, sheep, and horses. Alfalfa is also used for greenchop and silage in many areas. California is the leading producer of alfalfa hay in the United States, followed by Wisconsin, South Dakota, Minnesota, and Idaho. Roundup Ready technology has been successfully incorporated into alfalfa and is scheduled for commercial release in 2005.

What is Roundup Ready Alfalfa? Roundup (glyphosate) is a broad-spectrum herbicide that kills a wide range of plants. It is normally applied directly to crops. The RR technology incorporates genetic resistance to glyphosate into crop plants by inserting a single bacterial gene that modifies 5-enolpyruvylshikimate-3-phosphate (EPSP) synthase, an enzyme essential for plant growth. Monsanto has used this technology to develop several RR crops (e.g., cotton, soybeans, and corn).

Roundup Ready technology will enable the development of new weed control strategies for alfalfa. Specifically, these new varieties will allow glyphosate (for example, Roundup UltraMax—see label for the full spectrum of weeds controlled and application specifications) to be applied over the top of the entire crop to control a wide spectrum of annual and perennial weeds commonly found in alfalfa. Several of these weeds, especially perennials, are difficult to control using conventional herbicides or nonherbicide weed control methods. Although scientists at Monsanto and Forage Genetics International have developed the technology, RR alfalfa varieties will be marketed broadly by a wide range of seed companies. Important characteristics, such as genetic resistance to insects and diseases and yield potential, remain important criteria for selecting a variety. The RR trait enables a unique weed control program to be used in alfalfa. (SOURCE: Excerpted from: Roundup Ready Alfalfa—An Emerging Technology. 2004 by Allen Van Deynze, et al., University of California, Davis. An electronic version of this publication is available on the ANR Communication Services Wed site at http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu).
evaluation of a tasco supplement on reproductive rate in suckled postpartum beef cows

hypothesis being tested. tasco supplementation will enhance reproductive rate and resulting pregnancy in spring calving, postpartum suckled beef cows. improvements in pregnancy rate will occur as a result of reduced heat stress. the effects of heat stress will be minimized as a result of reduced body temperatures among cows and bulls consuming seaweed supplement.

experimental treatments. two treatments were compared. cows and bulls assigned to the tasco treatment consumed supplement beginning approximately 3 weeks prior to a 45-day breeding season, which began on may 8, 2003.

supplementation continued through completion of the breeding season, through the summer, and ended on september 1, 2003. the control group was offered a comparable supplement without tasco over the same time frame.

experimental procedures. cows: two blood samples for progesterone were obtained 10 days and 1 day prior to the initiation of treatment to determine estrous cyclicity rates of cows. an initial pregnancy exam was performed by ultrasound on july 29, 2003, and the final pregnancy exam was performed on september 16.

bulls: an initial breeding soundness evaluation was performed on all bulls approximately 60 days before the breeding season, immediately prior to the breeding season, midway through the breeding season, and the day after the breeding season ended.

percentage data were analyzed using chi-square procedures of sas.

results. there was no difference between treatments in the performance of cows for the following variables: 1) initial pregnancy exam, final pregnancy, pregnancy loss or weight change. in addition there were no notable differences among bulls consuming tasco versus control supplements with regard to semen motility, live sperm or concentration.

conclusion. the results from this study indicate that there was no change in reproductive response variables among cows consuming tasco supplementation prior to or during the breeding season. (source: d.j. patterson and d.k. davis, forage systems research center, linneus, mo, forage systems update vol 14, no. 1)