

FORAGE NEWS

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March 2015

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

Christi and I produced the FIRST issue of Forage News January 1978. In that issue we indicated we would have it to you the first part of the month. Over the 36 years and 434 issues, Christi has met that goal. **The very first article was:**

Forages at Farm and Home Week

Forage research at UK will be discussed on the morning of the final day of Farm and Home Week-Friday (9:00-11:30), January 12, 1978 in Seay Auditorium. The topics and speakers for the morning program are: Opening Remarks – J.K. Evans; Grass Breeding – Dr. R. Buckner; Legume Breeding – Dr. Norm Taylor; Variety Testing – Dr. R. Sigafus; Grass-Legume Management – Dr. T. Taylor; Forage Quality – Dr. G. Lacefield; Grass-Legume Silage – Dr. L. Bull; Corn and Small Grain Silage – Dr. M. Bitzer; - Forage Insects – Dr. C. Christensen; Discussion and Question Period.

Immediately following this meeting, the Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council will have their annual meeting in Room N-12. This will be a luncheon meeting. A box lunch will be provided for members who attend.

In addition to the above activities, there will be a forage booth set up in the East wing of the Good Barn. The booth will be manned by the Research and Extension Forages faculty on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. If you have a question on forages, stop by the booth and visit.

Other articles in that first issue were written by Forage Scientists and friends from Purdue, University of Missouri and University of Kentucky.

35TH KENTUCKY ALFALFA CONFERENCE

Approximately 150 from 9 states participated in the 35th Kentucky Alfalfa Conference at the Cave City Convention Center on February 26, 2015. In addition to a full house of exhibitors and a large silent auction, participants heard from leading alfalfa scientists and farmers. Keynote presentations by Dr. Ballerstedt and Dr. Ball were highlights of the conference. The conference ended on a most positive note with leading Kentucky farmers discussing "What Alfalfa Quality Means to Me".

ALFALFA AWARDS PRESENTED AT CONFERENCE

Each year the Kentucky Alfalfa Conference presents awards for outstanding accomplishments in alfalfa science and production to individuals in Public, Private and Producer sectors.

This year's recipients were:

Charles Schnitzler Alfalfa Producer Award: Myron Ellis
Warren Thompson Industry Award: Dr. Peter Ballerstedt
Garry Lacefield Public Service Award: Christi Forsythe and Cheryl Lacefield
Congratulations Myron, Peter, Christi and Cheryl!



L to r – Myron Ellis, Christi Forsythe, Garry Lacefield, Cheryl Lacefield and Peter Ballerstedt

ALFALFA HAY AWARDS

The highest tested alfalfa & alfalfa grass each month during the 2014 growing season were presented at the 25th Kentucky Alfalfa Conference in Cave City February 26, 2015.

Winners by month & category were:

Month	Alfalfa	Alfalfa-Grass
March	No participant	No participant
April	Davis Holder	Geralds Farms
May	Shane McKenzie	Paul Colson
June	Stanley Slinker	Larry Onstott
July	Geralds Farms	Marc Cammack
August	John McCoy	Woodland Place
September	Bill Baird Farms	Geralds Farms
October	No participant	Geralds Farms
November	No participant	No participant
2014 Best Overall Champion Alfalfa Hay: Davis Holder		

Congratulations to all for producing high quality hay under Kentucky Conditions. YES, it can be done here in our environment and the above prove it each year.

GARRY LACEFIELD'S RETIREMENT CELEBRATION

It was a privilege to celebrate Garry Lacefield's distinguished career at the University of Kentucky the evening of February 25. We heard from producers, industry, county agents and others about how much Garry's leadership has meant to the forage industry in Kentucky and the U.S. over the last 41 years. More than leadership though, person after person shared how Garry had played a huge role in helping them become the successful forage producer, forage educator and industry leader that they are today. A highlight of the evening was Warren Thompson (now 95) sharing via video the rich history of forage extension in Kentucky and the critical role that Garry has played in making Kentucky a national leader in effective/successful forage extension programming. Garry is retiring from his full time position at University of Kentucky, but as past KFGC President John Nowak said "with Garry's passion for forage he's not retiring, he's just moving on to the next phase."

For those of us organizing the event, we knew that we'd never be able to thank Garry sufficiently for all his contributions, but the forage community did enjoy giving him a few tokens of our appreciation. Western Kentucky University faculty gave WKU apparel for Garry to wear now that he and Cheryl live in Bowling Green. The faculty and staff at the Princeton Research station presented a beautiful forage themed painting. Christi Forsythe, Garry's long-term secretary, and others developed a framed collage with his photo surrounded by the logos of the almost 100 organizations and companies that he has been involved with over the years. Garry received a mantle clock to represent the timeless nature of his contributions to forages. Kim Field presented Garry with an Honorary KY Commissioner of Agriculture certificate from Commissioner Comer. The final gift, presented at the Alfalfa Conference the next day, was a hand-made sheath knife with a Damascus steel blade and beautiful wooden handle given by John Nowak and the KFGC board. John made sure that two knives were given though so Garry could pass these heirlooms down to both of his sons. And then a third knife was placed on the silent auction table where it raised a record \$600.00 to go toward continuing support of the Alfalfa Awards program.

We want to thank Darold Akridge for all he did to get pictures of this event. He did an excellent job and took some really great pictures. Thank you Darold!!! (Ray Smith)



Celebratory Cake for 35th Kentucky Alfalfa Conference and Garry's retirement - L to R – Ray Smith, Christi Forsythe & Garry Lacefield



Dr. Elmer Gray and Dr. Linda Gonzales, representing Western Kentucky University Department of Agriculture, presented Garry with a WKU jacket and shirt.



Garry's Retirement Celebration – L to R – Vonda (back to camera) & Don Ball, Brian, Cheryl, Garry & Brad Lacefield and Doug Cavender (Garry's Brother-in-Law). Not picture is Rhonda Cavender.



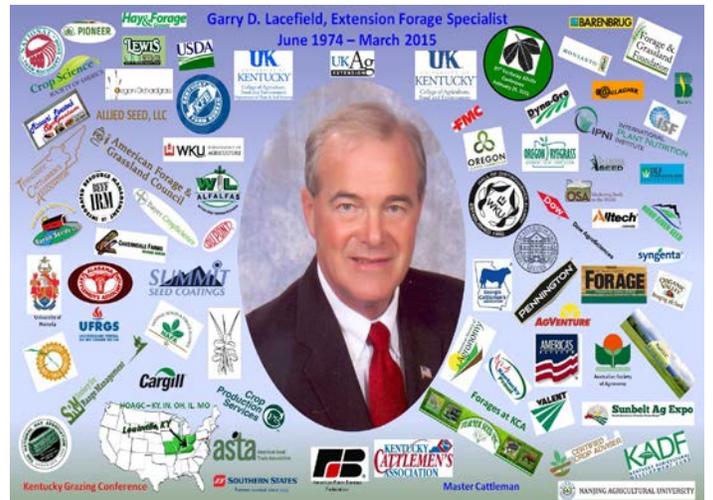
Kim Field, representing the Commissioner of Agriculture's Office, presented Garry with an Honorary Commissioner of Agriculture Certificate from Commissioner Comer.



Ken Johnson, representing KFGC, presented Garry with a mantle clock



The Research & Education Center presented Garry with a "Forage themed" painting. Pictured with Garry are former UKREC Beef Specialist Curtis Absher, former UKREC Plant Diagnostician Paul Bachi, Covetta Ramey, former UKREC Superintendent Donnie Davis, Jeanne Davis, Christi Forsythe and Roy Burris.



Bret Winsett presented Garry with a framed copy of the above. This represents many of the organizations, companies, meetings, etc. that Garry has been involved in over his 40 years as UK Extension Forage Specialist.



L to R - Seated - Curtis Absher, Jeanne & Donnie Davis, Roy & Karen Burris. Standing - Billy Ray Smith, Garry Lacefield, Paul Bachi, Covetta Ramey & Christi Forsythe.





The final gift was a hand-made sheath knife with a Damascus steel blade and beautiful wooden handle given by John Nowak and the KFGC board during the 35th Kentucky Alfalfa Conference.

OLD FILES

I have been doing a log of office cleaning over the past few weeks. While going through some folders, I came across a large one marked "Personal". In it I had kept many letters, cards and notes from the 70's and 80's. It was a rewarding experience going back and reading all the nice things folks had said. I likely had yours if you sent me anything during that period. There were many who took the time to write on a regular basis. The two people that wrote me the most handwritten notes were two of my mentors Dr. E. N. Fergus and Mr. Warren Thompson.

A note from Dr. Fergus on our first Forage News dated January 23, 1979:

Dear Garry,

Just a few words to commend you for initiating Forage News and the editorial job you did on the first issue. It sets a high standard. Doubtless Forages News will be a significant factor in promoting forages in Kentucky.

Best wishes, Ernest Fergus"

A note from Warren Thompson dated 11-25-91:

Garry:

It is seldom that one has a chance to tell someone what he thinks and knows about that person and how he feels about what he is doing and the effect it is having on the lives of others. The Medallion Award program became that blessed event that gave me that chance. And I will be forever grateful for it.

Just in case you did not get to see all the letters written in support of you for this nomination, I wanted to be absolutely sure you had a chance to see what the old man thinks of the chosen one who is running the best forage show in America. And to have him as a life-long friend is a bonus few can ever expect to have.

Have a great Holiday season, Garry!

Warren Thompson

The lead article in Forage News in 1989:

I'm back

The rumor that I had a fatal heart attack while attending a Chicago Cubs baseball game was greatly exaggerated. Fact: 1) I did have a chest pain when leaving the ballgame in Chicago, 2) I did not have a heart attack in Illinois or Kentucky, 3) five days after the experience in Chicago, I had open heart surgery and 5 by-passes, and 4) my recovery has been on or ahead of schedule.

I'm not ready to go out horseback riding, operate a chain saw or jackhammer, but I've come a long way in the past six weeks. My thanks for all your support and encouragement. I appreciate all who filled in for me. I am especially in debt to my secretary, Christi Forsythe, and Dr. Monroe Rasnake.

I had the pleasure of speaking at 4-H Celebration Retreats held at Fontana, N.C. on many occasions. The following was the lead article in the 1988 Fontana Resources Conference:

Garry Lacefield

Today I had the pleasure of meeting a great man, Garry Lacefield. Dr. Lacefield will be the guest speaker at the assembly tonight. He will be speaking on many topics, but the one that impresses me is the patriotic side of the presentation.

Dr. Lacefield's presentation has been shown from coast to coast to foreigners and government officials. He takes pride in admitting his deep love for his country and the people who inhabit it.

The slide presentation which Dr. Lacefield put together consists of photos of people from different scenes all around this country. This same slide presentation was to be viewed by President Reagan in 1983, but due to his schedule, the viewing was postponed.

I asked Dr. Lacefield what possessed him to put together such a unique collection of words and pictures to express his feelings for America. He replied, "I was tired of reading and listening to the negative sides to our country, so I decided to do something about it" and do something about it he did.

Dr. Lacefield is not a "Preacher of Patriotism." His show is very relaxing and entertaining. He hopes that everyone will have a good time. As for myself, I will definitely enjoy his talk. Dr. Lacefield's presentation is sponsored by the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture Extension Service.

Tim Jones, Georgia

May your Pastures always be green.

May your Hay have more leaves than stems.

May your Fences be strong enough to keep your neighbor's bull out.

May all your cows have Healthy calves.

May the Prices at the market be to your liking.

--Garry D. Lacefield

Garry D. Lacefield
Extension Forage Specialist
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