



FORAGE NEWS

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November 2014

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

WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY HOSTS GRAZING CONFERENCE

The 15th Kentucky Grazing Conference was held October 23 at the WKU Expo in Bowling Green. Over 125 from 7 states participated in the daylong event featuring leading speakers covering timely practical topics on grazing. Keynote speakers were Dr. Scott Flynn who addressed the topic "Can I afford to spray for weeds in pasture" and Ed Ballard covered the important topic "Grazing Options for fall and winter grazing". Other speakers included Bill Payne, Dr. Ben Goff, Dr. Jeff Lehmkuhler, Dr. Ray Smith and Dr. Garry Lacefield. In addition to the excellent program, participants also visited with exhibitors, bid on silent auction items and enjoyed a delicious meal.

KENTUCKY FORAGE & GRASSLAND COUNCIL PRESENTS ANNUAL AWARDS

The Annual Awards from the Kentucky Forage & Grassland Council were presented during lunch at the 15th Kentucky Grazing Conference in Bowling Green, October 23. Award recipients were:

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|-------------------------|---------------|
| Grassroots Award | Craig Cohron |
| Public Service (County) | Clint Hardy |
| Public Service (State) | Kevin Laurent |
| Industry | Scott Flynn |

Congratulations Craig, Clint, Kevin and Scott!



L-R – Scott Flynn, Clint Hardy, Kevin Laurent, Craig Cohron and Garry Lacefield

BEEF BASH 2014

The University of Kentucky Beef Bash 2014 was held at the UKREC in Princeton September 25 with 423 in attendance. Field Day weather was as close to perfect as I have seen for a U.K. Field Day. Congratulations to Dr. Roy Burris and his entire committee for a great day.

NATIONAL HAY ASSOCIATION ELECTS NEW LEADERS

Clayton Geraldts elected to National Hay Association Board

David Fink, Germansville, PA, was elected the new National Hay Association president at the group's 119th annual convention held Sept. 18-20 in Memphis, TN.

Also elected were Bob Eckenberg, Mattawa, WA, first vice president; Terry Button, Rushville, NY, second vice president; and C. Paul Dugger, Nashville, TN, executive director.

Newly elected directors include Carl Blackmer, Livonia, NY; Randy Britten, Bryan, TX; Amy Freeburg, Gayville, SD; Eric Frisvold, Union City, CA; **Clayton Geraldts, Munfordville, KY**; Christine Grooms, McCook, NE; Tim Hall, Idalia, CO; Greg Jackson, Brawley, CA; Larry Jones, Oakland, TN; Bob McDowell, Rudyard, MI; John Randall, Bloomfield, NY; John Russell, Pemberville, OH; John Strieter, Bay Port, MI; Rod Van Orman, Ellensburg, WA; and Dan Wray, El Centro, CA.

For more on the National Hay Association, visit www.nationalhay.org. (SOURCE: Adapted from eHay Weekly, September 30, 2014)

2014 KFGC FORAGE SPOKESPERSON CONTEST

Heather Graham of Wolfe County and Ryan Clark of Muhlenberg County participated in the 2014 Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council, Forage Spokesperson Contest held on October 23 as a part of the 15th Annual KY Grazing Conference. Both contestants gave excellent presentations with only three points separating the judging scores. Heather Graham was declared the winner and will represent Kentucky at the 2015 American Forage and Grassland Council Forage Spokesperson Contest in January at St Louis, Missouri.

(SOURCE: Don Sorrell, Spokesperson Contest Chairman)



L-R – Garry Lacefield, Heather Graham and Don Sorrell

NATIONAL ALFALFA SEMINAR

INCREASE YOUR ALFALFA KNOWLEDGE

With today's technology expanding at a rapid pace, there is much to be learned about alfalfa. The Alfalfa Intensive Training Seminar, sponsored by the National Alfalfa and Forage Alliance, gives participants the knowledge they need to make the best of their alfalfa investment. It is taught by leading alfalfa enthusiasts from four states. The next AITS will be November 18-20, 2014 in Bloomington, Minnesota. For more details and to register visit www.alfalfa.org.

DR. TEMPLE GRANDIN TO OPEN NATIONAL FORAGE CONFERENCE

Internationally known author, lecturer and researcher Dr. Temple Grandin will be the opening speaker at the American Forage and Grassland Council's Annual Conference in St. Louis, MO, January 11-14, 2015. She will speak Monday, January 12 from 8:00 – 9:15 a.m. on the topic "Tips for Low Stress Cattle Handling". Following the morning break the Dow Pasture Symposium will begin at 9:30 featuring six speakers addressing different aspects of the theme "Forage Improvements: Something for Everyone". Speakers and topics include:

- Grazing Method: - Dr. Garry Lacefield, University of Kentucky
- Can I afford to Spray for Weeds? - Dr. Scott Flynn, Dow AgroSciences
- Hay Preservatives & Additives – Do They Work? Are they Economical? - Dr. Ray Smith, University of Kentucky
- Adjusting and Maintenance of Haying Equipment: A Farmers Perspective - Clayton Gerald, Gerald Farms, Munfordville, KY
- Keys to Success when Making Baleage: A Farmers Perspective - Kendall Guither, Guither Farms, Walnut, IL
- Forage-Livestock Quotes & Concepts - Dr. Don Ball, Auburn University, AL

The opening session will be followed by the AFGC Business Meeting and lunch. For details on the entire program, registration, hotel, etc. visit www.afgc.org

PRODUCERS FEATURED ON 20TH FORAGES AT KCA PROGRAM

The Kentucky Cattlemen's Convention will be in Owensboro January 16-17 at the new Convention Center. It makes the 20th consecutive year we have had a Forages at KCA program on the agenda. To celebrate the 20th Anniversary, the program will feature farmers. I will introduce each and summarize at the end but farmers will deliver the content. Program and speakers include:

- 2:00 pm Welcome, Introduction & Overview -Garry Lacefield
 - My Top 5 Forage Improvements/Practices**
 - 2:15 Commercial Hay - Clayton Gerald
 - 2:30 Dairy - Bill Payne
 - 2:45 Goats and Sheep - Jason Tower
 - 3:00 Cow-Calf - Chris Pantle
 - 3:15 Stocker - Russell Hackley
 - 3:30 Top TEN Forage Improvements: The BIG Picture - Garry Lacefield
 - 3:45 Panel Discussion
 - 4:30 Adjourn
- See you in Owensboro!!!

LOW- AND REDUCED-LIGNIN ALFALFAS TO HIT MARKET

Alforex and Forage Genetics International announce varieties

Two of the three major alfalfa seed companies will have low- or reduced-lignin varieties commercially available in 2015 and likely 2016, according to announcements at World Dairy Expo last week.

Alforex Seeds will have a limited supply of its Hi-Gest low-lignin varieties available next spring. The varieties were developed through conventional plant-breeding methods.

Its Hi-Gest 360 is a fall dormancy 3 variety with a 1.5 winter survival rating. Hi-Gest 660 is a fall dormancy 6 alfalfa adapted across the semi-dormant areas of California, Arizona, New Mexico,

Texas and Oklahoma. The varieties will retail at around \$290/bag, according to company officials.

Forage Genetics International (FGI) presented what it calls the industry's "first quality-enhancing trait," using transgenic technology. Called HarvXtra alfalfa, it will be sold as a stacked trait with Genuity Roundup Ready alfalfa. The technology probably won't be commercially available until 2016, company officials say. It's currently under review by USDA and must receive deregulation approval.

HarvXtra alfalfa was developed by FGI through a strategic partnership with [The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation](#) and the [U.S. Dairy Forage Research Center](#) in conjunction with Monsanto.

The low-lignin varieties from Alforex are said to contain 7-10% less lignin than conventional alfalfas. Lignin is a cell-wall component needed by plants to hold them up. Scientists have been working to lower the amount in alfalfa to increase its digestibility without causing lodging. According to Alforex, dairy producers can expect a milk increase of up to 2.5 lbs/cow/day after feeding the low-lignin varieties.

The FGI alfalfa will contain 12-18% less lignin, officials announced.

Varieties with less lignin can be harvested in a wider cutting window – up to seven to 10 days later – than conventional alfalfas. That would allow growers more opportunity to have increased yield and high quality. (SOURCE: *eHay Weekly*, October 7, 2014)

SULFUR FERTILITY FOR ALFALFA PRODUCTION IN KENTUCKY

Sulfur (S) fertility concerns are becoming more common in Kentucky due to the reduction in atmospheric S deposition resulting from more stringent air quality concerns. The Mehlich 3 soil test extractant used by many labs to determine plant available phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium, and zinc has not been calibrated for S response in Kentucky for any crop, so the most common method of assessing S fertility is by tissue sampling. In order to better understand the S fertility status for alfalfa grown in Kentucky, a tissue nutrient survey was conducted in 2013 and 2014 across the state with the assistance of county extension agents. Tissue samples were collected from the top six inches of 50 plants in a field prior to the second harvest (approximately 10% bloom). Twenty-eight alfalfa samples were collected from eight Kentucky counties in 2013 and 21 alfalfa samples were collected from 10 counties in 2014. Six tissue samples were below the sufficiency range of 0.25 to 0.50% reported in AGR-92 in 2013 and five samples were below for 2013.

In 2014, five sulfur yield trials were conducted on the fields that were below the sufficiency range in 2013. Gypsum, at two rates of S (25 and 50 lb S/A), and an untreated control were used to compare forage yields from the second and third alfalfa harvests. In these fields, tissue S content typically increased with 25 lb S/A, but there was no further increase with 50 lb S/A. At the second harvest none of the alfalfa fields showed a higher yield with either rate of added S compared to the untreated check. At the third harvest, three fields showed no difference in yield with added S, one field showed a yield increase and one field had a slight decrease. In conclusion, the preliminary survey showed that there may be S deficiency on limited alfalfa fields in Kentucky. The results from the yield trial were inconclusive, but based on this data we are not yet able to make general recommendations for S fertilization on alfalfa in Kentucky. This research will continue during the next few years. (SOURCE: Edwin Ritchey and Ray Smith, University of Kentucky Plant and Soil Sciences.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- NOV 18-20 Alfalfa Intensive Training Seminar, Bloomington, MN
- JAN 11-13 American Forage & Grassland Council Conference, St. Louis, MO
- JAN 16-17 20th Forages at KCA, KCA Convention, Owensboro
- FEB 26 35th "Anniversary" Kentucky Alfalfa Conference, Cave City Convention Center, Cave City, KY



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