

# FORAGE NEWS

For more forage information, visit our UK Forage Extension Website at: <http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage/>

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*S. Ray Smith, Extension Forage Specialist and Krista Lea, MS*

## UK Forage Variety Trials for 2015 are Now Available

Each year, hundreds of forage varieties are planted in side by side comparisons of yield, persistence, grazing tolerance and other factors. Varieties of Alfalfa, Red and White Clover, Orchardgrass, Tall Fescue, Ryegrasses, Timothy, Kentucky Bluegrass, Festulolium, Sorghum-Sudan, Pearl Millet, Wheat, Forage Oats and others are entered by seed companies in multiple tests in Lexington, Princeton and Quicksand to evaluate performance throughout Kentucky. Many have found that our “2015 Long-term Summary of Kentucky Forage Variety Trials” provides the easiest way to choose the best variety. In it, the variety performance of all of these species is summarized over the last 15 years. Results are published by Gene Olson, Dr. Ray Smith and others in a series of reports. All reports can be found at [www.uky.edu/ag/forage](http://www.uky.edu/ag/forage); click on Forage Variety Trials.

design at each of 3 locations (Boyle, Bracken and Green counties). Plots were harvested and analyzed for yield and forage quality. While common rust was prevalent at all locations in 2015, yields were still high and valuable comparisons can be found for each of the three locations. For the full report, visit [www.uky.edu/ad/forage](http://www.uky.edu/ad/forage) and click on “forage publications”. ~ Krista Lea

## Heart of America Registration Open

The Heart of America Grazing Conference will be held in Lexington, KY on Jan. 25-26<sup>th</sup> at the Downtown Hilton. The one and a half day program will include Alfalfa and State Hay Awards, Banquet, Gratitude presentation from Dr. Garry Lacefield, and three educational sessions: *Curing Fescue Toxicity?*, *Alfalfa Mini-Symposia* and *Extending the Grazing Season*. Talks will include:

- The Secret Ingredients of Clover – Dr. Michael Flythe
- Soyhulls: More than Just a Feed Supplement – Dr. Glen Aiken
- “Lacefield Max QII” Novel Tall Fescue – Dr. Tim Phillips
- Grazing Alfalfa: Producer Perspective – Bob Hall
- Low Lignin Alfalfa – Dr. Ray Smith
- Alfalfa as a Green Manure – Dr. Ben Goff
- How Diversity Extends the Grazing Season – Debby Dulworth
- Native Warm Season Grasses – Dr. Pat Keyser
- Grazing Corn to Maximize Late Summer and Fall Gains – Dr. Jeff Lehmkuhler
- The Economics of Extended Grazing – Dr. Greg Halich

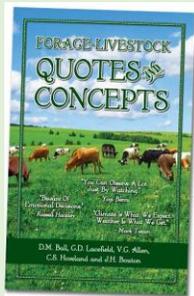
Registration is available online at [www.uky.edu/ag/forages](http://www.uky.edu/ag/forages) or complete the form on page 2. Make sure to register by Jan. 13 for the early bird rate.

## Narrow Window for Frost Seeding Forages

Forage seed can be broadcast without tillage in late winter (a.k.a. frost seeding) on the soil surface of fall-sown cereals or existing forage stands. Success is greatest when the ground is freezing and thawing daily and the soil surface is moist. Freezing and thawing action (honeycombing of the soil surface with ice crystals) along with rain will cover seed with soil and create good seed-to-soil contact. The window of time when the soil is freezing and thawing on a daily basis is frequently very narrow, so producers need to be prepared and

### Forage News Quote of the Month “Grazing Methods Are Tools”

Grazing methods, more correctly referred to as stocking methods, are procedures or techniques used to manipulate animals in space and time to achieve specific objectives. Methods include rotational stocking, creep stocking and first-last stocking. Such methods are like tools in a tool box/ each one is best suited for use in certain situation. For example, if the goal is to provide a higher level of intake and nutrition to growing calves as compared to cows, the correct method would be creep stocking where calves have access to an area of pasture or adjacent fields where cows cannot follow. As with other tools, stocking methods are transportable and can be used anywhere, but it is important to select the correct tool to accomplish the objective. To purchase the Forage-Livestock Quotes and Concepts book, contact KFGC at [ukforageextension@uky.edu](mailto:ukforageextension@uky.edu). Books are \$5 each.

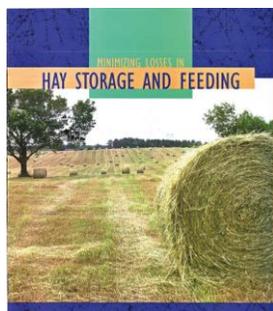


## County Ag Agents Work Together to Evaluate Silage Corn Performance

In 2015, five Kentucky Ag Agents worked with Dr. Chad Lee to provide unbiased forage yield and quality data for corn hybrids commonly grown for silage in Kentucky. Twenty-one hybrid varieties were planted in a randomized complete block

ready when the time is right. Early morning frost seeding is recommended before the soil surface begins to thaw. If the soil surface is slimy then stop and wait until the next morning when the soil is frozen again. ~ *Pennsylvania Forage and Grassland News* (In Kentucky, mid-February is an ideal time for frost seeding clovers).

**Featured Publication: Minimizing Losses in Hay Storage and Feeding**



The coming months can be challenging for livestock producers. With most pastures contributing little forage production, many will rely on stored hay. Improper storage and feeding of hay can result in significant losses in both forage quality and quantity. This publication walks through many aspects of storage and feeding and the effects on forage quality as well as economics of proper

storage and feeding. This and other publications can be found at [www.uky.edu/ag/forage](http://www.uky.edu/ag/forage); click on "Forage Publications".

**Estimating Winter Water Needs of Livestock**

As daily temperatures start to decline most producers begin to focus on delivering feed to their livestock. Often, at this time the thought of animal's water needs is discounted because we don't associate cooler temperatures with water intake. However, even in colder temperatures water requirements of livestock are critical to maintain optimum animal performance. Additionally, winter brings the challenge of providing water to livestock while battling the effects that lower temperatures have on the pipes and plumbing that deliver the water.

During cold periods cattle energy requirements will increase to maintain body functions and temperature. To meet the increased requirements cows will increase dry matter intake (DMI) by eating more feed if it is provided and if they physically can consume it. Water intake effects animal DMI and if it is limited due to a frozen, inaccessible water source animals will not be able to meet their increased requirements. Excessively cold water temperature will also decrease water intake, as well as increase energy requirements by lowering body temperature.

Impact of Ambient Temperature on Water Intake (gallons)

Class	40° F	70° F	90° F
Growing, 600 lb	5.3	7.8	12.7
Finishing, 1000 lb	8.7	12.6	20.6
Pregnant Cow, 1000 lb	6.0	8.7	--
Lactating Cow, 900 lb	11.4	16.9	16.2
Bull, 1600 lb+	8.7	12.6	20.6

*Adapted from 1996 Beef NRC*

The importance of a clean and consistently available source is critical to animal performance year round. Proper evaluation of where to winter livestock could make providing water easier during the coldest part of the year depending on available water sources. ~ *Grazing News, Vol. 5, Issue 7*

**NOTE:** The full article, Winter Watering of Livestock, and other articles from *Grazing News*, can be found by visiting the UK Forage website ([www.uky.edu/ad/forage](http://www.uky.edu/ad/forage)) and click on the Master Grazer link.

# Heart of America Grazing Conference Registration

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

	<b>Registration</b>	
	Before Jan. 13	After Jan. 13
One Day:	\$50	\$60
Full:	\$85	\$95
Student:	\$40	\$50
Amount Enclosed: \$ _____		

Return this form with check payable to:  
 Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council

Send to: Krista Lea, University of Kentucky  
 N-222C Ag. Science Center North  
 Lexington, KY 40546  
 859-257-0597  
[ukforageextension@uky.edu](mailto:ukforageextension@uky.edu)

Online registration available at [www.uky.edu/ag/forages](http://www.uky.edu/ag/forages)  
 Discounted room rates are available through Dec. 26<sup>th</sup> and can be reserved at [www.hilton.com](http://www.hilton.com) using group code GRAZ16 or visit [www.uky.edu/ag/forages](http://www.uky.edu/ag/forages) for a directly link.

**Upcoming Events (full details at UK Forage Website – [www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage](http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage))**

- 2016**  
 JAN 10-12 American Forage and Grassland Council Annual Meeting. Baton Rouge, LA.  
 JAN 16 Forages at KCA. Owensboro, KY  
 JAN 25-26 Heart of America Grazing Conf. Lexington, KY  
 JAN 26-29 Winter Forage Conferences, VA  
 JAN 29-30 UK Equine Showcase and Kentucky Breeders' Short Course. Lexington, KY  
 FEB 6 Kentucky Small Ruminant Grazing Conf. Catlettsburg, KY  
 FEB 11 Pastures Please Equine Conf., Versailles, KY  
 APRIL 12 Adv. Grazing School, Versailles, KY  
 MAY 17-18 KY Grazing School, Versailles, KY  
 JULY 17-22 International Rangeland Congress, Saskatchewan, Canada