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

December 2013
Garry D. Lacefield and S. Ray Smith, Extension Forage Specialists • Christi Forsythe, Secretary

THANK YOU KENTUCKY FARMERS

I’m sure you, like me, had a wonderful Thanksgiving dinner. As always during the Thanksgivings season we reflect on our freedom, along with all the other blessings we American often take for granted. How many took time to thank the American farmer. Let’s look at some facts and some of Garry’s opinions: Our farmers are one of the most unappreciated sectors of our workforce, our farmers are taken for granted more today than ever. In this Country, we enjoy the most abundant-safe-cheap (compared to most of the World) food supply in the World. We own much of that to the dedicated, hard work and efficiency of the American farmer. Less than one percent of our population are farmers. Our farm numbers and cows numbers continue to decline. The ability of the American farmer to produce food and fiber is unprecedented . For example: in 1950 the average farmer was producing enough food for eighteen people, this year the average farmer will produce enough food for 163 people. In 1950, the average household spent 20.5% of their income on food – this year they will spend only 9.5%. Our farmers today face many challenges and deserve our respect and appreciation.

THANK YOU FARMERS!

FORAGES AT KCA

Our nineteenth consecutive Forages at KCA will be held from 2:00 – 4:00 on January 17, 2014. Our program theme is “Grazing – Health and Animal Rights”. Speakers include Dr. Garry Lacefield and Dr. Roy Burris from the University of Kentucky and back by popular demand will be the keynote speaker Dr. Peter Ballerstedt.

Theme: Grazing – Health and Animal Rights

2:00 Welcome – Dr. Garry Lacefield
2:10 Grazing: More Important Now than Ever! - Dr. Garry Lacefield
2:30 Animal Rights – Animal Welfare: Protecting Animals OR A Threat to US Food Production and Our Way of Life? - Dr. Roy Burris
3:00 Red Meat and Our Health: Separating Scientific Fact from Politics, Emotion, and Misinformation - Dr. Peter Ballerstedt
3:45 Discussion
4:00 Adjourn

FORAGE VARIETY REPORTS NOW AVAILABLE

My thanks to Mr. Gene Olsen for all his hard work in getting our 2013 Forage Variety tests harvested, summarized and published. Reports are now available on our website at http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage/.

SOUTHERN FORAGES TRANSLATED INTO SPANISH

Southern Forages was written by Dr. Don Ball, Auburn University, Dr. Carl Hoveland, University of Georgia, and Dr. Garry Lacefield, University of Kentucky and was first released in 1991. Since that first edition, three additional editions have been released. It has been translated into Polish, Czech Republic, and Chinese and has just been translated into Spanish and released in November 2013. The Spanish edition was translated by Dr. Yoana Newman, University of Florida and Dr. Rocky Lemus, Mississippi State University. The book is available through the published, International Plant and Nutrition Institute (IPNI) and can be obtained at the following website: http://ppi-store.stores.yahoo.net/fodelasam.html

SMALL RUMINANT GRAZING CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN LEXINGTON ON FEBRUARY 01, 2014

On Saturday, February 01, 2014, the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment along with other sponsors will host an all-day event focusing on grazing small ruminant animals such as sheep and goats at the Fayette County Extension Office. The program will begin at 8:30 a.m. and end at 2:30 p.m. The deadline for pre-registration is January 24, 2014. A registration fee of $25 includes lunch and educational materials.

Dr. Ray Kaplan, renowned parasitologist, from the University of Georgia will headline the program with talks on “De-wormers” and “Reducing Parasites with Grazing Management”. Other topics addressed on the program will be Agronomic and Livestock Benefits to Rotational Grazing, Hay Testing, Environmental Stewardship as well as updates on marketing from the Kentucky Department of Agriculture and an update on the UK Robinson Center for Appalachian Resource Sustainability.

Rounding out the Program will be a producer panel discussion with leading small ruminant producers discussing “What works for them”.

Lastly, FAMACHA Training will be offered by Dr. Michelle Arnold, UK Extension Ruminant Veterinarian at the end of the Program at a cost of $15.00 per person (for training materials). This training is not offered very often and will be a good opportunity for producers concerned about managing parasites in their operation.

For more information log on to the Robinson Center website at www2ca.uky.edu/rcars. or call 606-666-2438. (David Ditsch, Extension Agronomy Specialist/Robinson Station Superintendent)
Organic Forage-Livestock Management

‘Grass-Finished’: What Do We Really Know and What Does It Really Mean?

Organic Forage-Livestock Management
Investing in Pasture Improvements Pays Dividends
Herbicide-Resistant Weeds in Agricultural Systems
Growing and Utilizing Forage Sorghums
Forage Production Effects on Southern Livestock Management

In addition, there will be many volunteer papers and posters along with a large exhibit and silent auction. Several competition events including Forage Spokesman, Photo Contest, Forage Bowls, Emerging Scientist Competition and Youth in Grazing Management Essay Contest.

The banquet will be highlighted by the Annual Awards presentations.

Register for one day or all three. Call, email, or go to web site for registration information and form (Phone: 800-944-2342, Email: info@afgc.org; Web site: www.afgc.org).

You can make reservations for your room at the Hilton Memphis (1-901-684-6664 ask for AFGC block). You will need to reserve your room by December 26, 2013 to get this rate. The cost is $99 per night.

34TH KENTUCKY ALFALFA CONFERENCE

The 34th Kentucky Alfalfa Conference will be held February 20 at the Western Kentucky University Expo Center in Bowling Green. The program includes:

8:30 Registration, visit exhibits, silent auction
9:15 Welcome – Dr. Jack Rudolph
9:30 Role and Importance of Alfalfa in WKU Teaching/Research/ Farming Programs – Dr. Elmer Gray
10:00 Alfalfa baleage/silage preservatives: Do they work? Are they Economical? – Dr. Ray Smith
10:30 Break, visit exhibits, silent auction
11:00 Alfalfa – Australia – Kentucky – Dr. Garry Lacefield, Dr. Ray Smith, and Ms. Traci Missun
11:15 Alfalfa for Summer Grazing – Dr. Roy Burris
11:30 Why aren’t big square balers used more in Kentucky? – Mr. Tom Keene
11:45 Advances in Alfalfa Promotion – Mr. Bill Talley
12:00 Lunch, visit exhibits, silent auction
1:00 Alfalfa Awards and Silent Auction Results
1:30 Adjustments and Maintenance of Haying Equipment – Mr. Clayton Geralds;
Mr. John McCoy
Mr. Cris Scudder
2:45 Discussion
3:00 Adjourn

Will have a full house of ‘Exhibits’ and a large group of Silent Auction Items. Registration is $15.00 ($5.00 students) and includes meal, proceedings, educational materials and break. No pre-registration is required.

For additional information, contact Christi Forsythe at 270-365-7541, Ext. 221 or by e-mail at cforsyth@uky.edu.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JAN 12-14  AFGC Conference, Memphis, TN
JAN 13  AFGC Dow Pasture Symposium, Memphis, TN
JAN 15-18  Kentucky Cattlemen’s Association Convention, Lexington
JAN 17  Forages at KCA, Lexington
FEB 1  Kentucky Small Ruminant Grazing Conference, Lexington
FEB 4-7  NCBA, Nashville, TN
FEB 20 34th Kentucky Alfalfa Conference, WKU Expo Center, Bowling Green

**Fame is a vapor, Popularity an accident, Riches take wings, but only Character endures—Horace Greeley**

December 2013

Merry Christmas