October 2014

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

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS HIGHLIGHTS KENTUCKY GRAZING CONFERENCE

Make your plans to be with us October 23 at the WKU Expo in Bowling Green. The Grazing Conference will feature leading speakers covering cutting-edge topics including: Grazing Methods, Maximizing Stockers Gains on Pastures, Role and Importance of Forage Legumes, Technical Service Providers and Summer Grazing Options. We are very fortunate to have TWO outstanding keynote speakers. Back by popular demand is Mr. Ed Ballard, University of Illinois (retired) speaking on Grazing Options for Fall & Winter. Our second keynote speaker is Dr. Scott Flynn, with Dow AgroSciences speaking on the topic “Can I Afford to Spray for Weeds in Pastures?” We will present our annual KFGC Awards during lunch. At 1:45, we will conduct our Forage Spokesman Contest. We will have a full house of exhibitors and a large silent auction. For more details concerning the program, see our website at www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage or contact your County Agent or contact us.

35TH KENTUCKY ALFALFA CONFERENCE – FEBRUARY 26, 2015

Thirty-six years ago I started planning an alfalfa meeting to be held in Shelbyville, Kentucky. That meeting turned out to be the first Kentucky Alfalfa Conference. This makes the 35th consecutive year we have put together the conference scheduled for the Cave City Convention Center February 26, 2015. As I look over the program, we have planned I believe I saved the best for last. More details later but for now, mark February 26 on your calendar and visit our website www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage for a list of speakers and topics. See you there.

BEWARE OF PRUSSIC ACID POISONING AS FROST APPROACHES

Although prussic acid poisoning can occur anytime during the growing season, the greatest risk is associated with the first frost in Kentucky. The primary cause of hydrocyanic (prussic) acid poisoning in domestic animals is the ingestion of plants containing this potent toxin. Cyanide-producing compounds (cyanogenic glucosides) occurring in living plant cells are converted to prussic acid when cells are crushed or otherwise ruptured.

The prussic acid potential of plants is affected by species and variety, weather, soil fertility and stage of plant growth. Plants of the sorghum group and leaves of wild cherry trees have a potential for producing toxic levels of prussic acid. Among varieties, some of the sudangrasses are low in prussic acid. Pearl millet is apparently free of prussic acid in toxic amounts. The risk from potentially dangerous forages may be reduced by following certain management practices.

1. Graze sorghum or sorghum cross plants only when they are at least 15 inches tall.
2. Do not graze plants during and shortly after drought periods when growth is severely reduced.
3. Do not graze wilted plants or plants with young tillers.
4. Do not graze for two weeks after a non-killing frost.
5. Do not graze after a killing frost until plant material is dry (the toxin is usually dissipated within 48 hours).
6. Do not graze at night when frost is likely.
7. Delay feeding silage 6 to 8 weeks following ensiling.
8. Do not allow access to wild cherry leaves whether they are wilted or not. After storms always check pastures for fallen limbs.

For more information on Prussic Acid Poisoning, along with other Forage-Related Disorders, stop by your County Extension Office and get a copy of ASC-57.
**Farm Income is Forecast to Decline in 2014**

“Net farm income is forecast at $113.2 billion in 2014, down about 14 percent from the 2013 forecast of $131.3 billion. If realized, the 2014 forecast would be the fourth-highest value since 1970 after adjusting for inflation. Lower cash receipts for crops, and to a lesser degree, higher production expenses and reduced government farm payments, drive the expected drop in net farm income. Net cash income is forecast at $123 billion, down almost 6 percent from the 2013 forecast. Net cash income is projected to decline less than net farm income primarily because it reflects the sale of more than $10 billion in carryover stocks from 2013. Despite expected record-setting harvests, crop receipts are expected to decrease more than 7 percent in 2014 due to lower prices. Livestock receipts are forecast to increase by more than 15 percent in 2014, largely due to higher prices. This chart is found in the topic page on the 2014 Farm Sector Income Forecast on the ERS website, updated August 26, 2014.”


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**Annual Forage Calculator**

Jeff Lehmkuhler and Greg Halich have just updated the Annual Forage Calculator. It's a very user friendly spreadsheet to help determine the costs of seeding annual forages. Download this updated version from the Decision Aid section of the UK Forage Website.

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**Kentucky Represented at National Hay Convention**

The 119th Convention of the National Hay Association was held in Memphis, September 17-21, 2014. Hart County hay producer Clayton Geralds was one of the keynote speakers and is currently serving on the board. Others from Kentucky who participated included: Molly Geralds, Tom & Johnny Creech, Tom & Muggs Keene, Garry & Cheryl Lacefield. The next NHA meeting will be September 23-26, 2015 in Lancaster, PA.

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**Upcoming Events**

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>15th Kentucky Grazing Conference</td>
<td>OCT 23</td>
<td>Western Kentucky University Expo Center, Bowling Green</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alfalfa Intensive Training Seminar</td>
<td>NOV 18-20</td>
<td>Bloomington, MN 2015</td>
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<td>American Forage &amp; Grassland Council</td>
<td>JAN 11-13</td>
<td>St. Louis, MO</td>
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<td>20th Forages at KCA, KCA Convention</td>
<td>JAN 16-17</td>
<td>Owensboro</td>
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<td>“Anniversary” Kentucky Alfalfa Conference</td>
<td>FEB 26</td>
<td>Cave City Convention Center, Cave City, KY</td>
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