

# Forage News

## Keeping Forage-Livestock Producers in Kentucky Informed

Dr. Ray Smith and Krista Lea, editors

June 2024

### Electric Fence Troubleshooting School

If you are a serious grazer make plans to attend the all-day Electric Fencing School June 12 in Bulter county. Fencing experts from the region will teach technical details of installing top quality electric fencing system for all scenarios and how to troubleshoot issues. This advanced school is limited to the first 35 participants. Sign up at: <https://2024ElectricFencing.eventbrite.com> or go to the UK Forage Website for more details.

### Producing Hay for Horse Markets Field Day-June 27

If you are interested in producing hay for horse markets or want to know how to buy quality hay for your own horses, plan to attend this Field Day in Nicholas County June 27 (rain date July 2) from 5:30-8:00. The topics will include 1) Marketing hay to horse owners, 2) Seeding alfalfa hay fields with a drone, and 3) In-field demonstration on harvesting top quality hay. At the field day James Judge will show how he utilizes even small irregular fields on ridgetops in northern KY to produce top quality alfalfa hay. He will also demonstrate some of the most advanced drone technology on the market today for seeding, spraying and even fertilizer applications. Bring \$10.00 to pay when you arrive to cover dinner cost. Location is Judge Farms, 4088 Moorefield Rd., Carlisle, KY. If the June 27 date is rained-out we will notify you by email or text. Go to "UK Forages" under Events to register or just scan the QR code below. Please register by June 24.

### KFGC Field Day-Makers Mark Farm-August 13

The Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council Field Day will be held Tuesday August 13 at Star Hill Farm from 4:30-7:30EDT in Loretto Kentucky. Participants will see and learn about grazing warm season cover crops, rotational grazing, native warm season grasses and pollinator production as well as sorghum production for syrup and grazing. UK Extension Specialists highlight forage production innovations at the farm at multiple tour stops.

Star Hill Farm is the home of Maker's Mark Distillery. Star Hill consists of approximately 1200 acres near Loretto in Marion County Kentucky. Approximately 300 acres of the farm is utilized to grow wheat and barley for use in Maker's Mark innovation products. Additionally, the farm is home to production of vegetables, fruit, lamb, Wagyu beef, sorghum, honey, mushrooms and truffles for use at the Distillery's restaurant.

Makers Mark has a strong commitment to the environment and sustainability. An important part of this

### Forage Timely Tips: June

- ✓ Make plans to attend the KFGC's Forage Tours.
- ✓ Continue hay harvests. Minimize storage losses by storing hay under cover.
- ✓ Clip pastures for weeds and seedheads as needed.
- ✓ Slow rotation allowing for a longer recovery period.
- ✓ Use portable fencing to decrease paddock size and increase paddock number.
- ✓ Do NOT graze below the minimum desired residual height.
- ✓ When present, johnsongrass can provide high quality summer forage when managed.
- ✓ Crabgrass, a warm-season annual grass, can provide high quality summer grazing. is a annual grass highly preferred by livestock. If desired, remember crabgrass needs some annual soil disturbance to keep coming back.
- ✓ Begin grazing native warm-season grasses. Start at 18-20" and stop at 8-10 inches.
- ✓ Begin grazing introduced warm-season grasses.

is practicing regenerative agriculture to improve and restore soil and capture carbon. The principles of regenerative agriculture includes utilization of no-till planting, planting cover crops on fields after harvest, and grazing the cover crops to cycle nutrients back into the soil. Star Hill Farm has been certified by "Regenified," an international organization that conducts on-site audits to determine that an entity is meeting all of the standards for Regenerative Agriculture.

Come learn more about grazing strategies and regenerative agriculture! A meal will be provided for participants at the end of the field day. For those interested, an opportunity for a free tour of the distillery and bourbon tasting will be available prior to the field day (limited number). To sign-up for the field day go to "UK Forages" under Events or phone the Marion County extension office at 270-692-2421.

### Plants that Plague Horse Hay

Foxtail isn't toxic to horses, but the spiky awns on its seedheads can become lodged in the soft palate of a horse's mouth, causing ulcers that make it difficult to eat. "It would be like having a ton of little slivers under your

fingernails — that's painful," Dr. Krishona Martinson at Univ. of Minnesota explained. "The leaf blade isn't toxic. It's the seedhead that poses a physical issue."

Considering the prolific nature of the weed, Martinson said horses can tolerate a diet that contains up to 10% foxtail. With that said, individual bales may have relatively higher volumes of foxtail that can pose a more significant threat to animals. Excerpt of article in May 14 issue of Hay and Forage Grower by Amber Friedrichsen. For the full article with other weeds that are problems in horse hay go to [hayandforage.com](http://hayandforage.com) or use this direct link: <https://hayandforage.com/article-4807-Four-plants-that-plague-horse-hay.html>

### Hay Stocks on Farms in Kentucky

On-farm hay stocks going into the hay making season are down this year (and last year) over previous years and production in 2022 and 2023 were also down. Except for early in the season, this past week provided some of the first good windows for hay making. Hopefully going forward we will have good opportunities for harvesting hay and good moisture to keep the hay growing. Fertilizer prices are still higher than long term averages, but remember that hay takes large quantities of fertilizer off your fields. If your soil test does not show high levels of nutrients then it is important that you are adding the fertilizer back to your hay fields. The safest recommendation is to fertilize to soil test recommendations. Special thanks to David Knopf with the National Agriculture Statistics Service (NASS) for providing this information. Go to <https://www.nass.usda.gov/> for more information on hay production statistics in Kentucky and around the country and data on all agricultural production.

### Using the UK Beef Cow Forage Supplementation Tool

The following is an example of how to use the UK Beef Cow Forage Supplement tool. We will use the "average" crude protein (CP), neutral detergent fiber (NDF), and total digestible nutrients (TDN) for the 268 hay samples from the East KY hay contest that required supplementation and assume an "as fed" dry matter of 88%. The averages for this sample set were 11.8, 56, and 57% for CP, NDF, and TDN, respectively. When we compare these average values to the nutrient requirements of a lactating brood cow (Table 2), it becomes apparent that this hay will require energy supplementation.

The question then becomes what type of supplement and how much? This can be determined by using the UK Beef Cow Forage Supplement Tool. This application can be used on-line or downloaded to your smart phone. It allows you to enter the results from your forage test (dry matter, neutral detergent fiber, crude protein, and total digestible nutrients) and gives you a range of supplement options and how much of each supplement must be fed to meet the cow's nutritional requirements at a given stage of production (Table 3). The UK Beef Cow Forage Supplement Tool can be found on-line at <http://forage-supplement-tool.ca.uky.edu/>.

When we enter the average values for crude protein, neutral detergent fiber, and total digestible nutrients for the sample set requiring

supplementation, the application indicates that this hay would need to be supplemented with either 2.1 lb corn, 2.1 lb of soybean hulls, 2.1 lb of Corn Gluten Feed, or 2.0 lb of Distillers Dried Grain with solubles on a daily basis (Table 4). When selecting a supplemental feed, it is important to consider local availability, how and where it will be stored, how it will be fed, how much can be safely fed, and of course how much it costs. Special thanks to Dr. Jimmy Henning, Dr. Chris Teutsch and local county agents for organizing the East and the Central KY Hay Contests.

### Revenue Crop Insurance Listening Session - Tuesday, June 11

Please make plans now to join us for the Forage Revenue Crop Insurance Listening Session scheduled for Tuesday, June 11 at 7:30 p.m. EDT. Click the link below to register for this important event.

The National Alfalfa and Forage Alliance (NAFA) is currently working with AgriLogic Consulting on a new alfalfa revenue crop insurance product through the 508 (h) process allowing us to develop an insurance product that is in the best interests of alfalfa farmers. USDA's Risk Management Agency Federal Crop Insurance Corporation Board recently approved the concept to move into development phase. As part of this phase, AgriLogic and NAFA, are pleased to be hosting a Listening Session for farmers and industry members to learn about the revenue product, as well as to provide input to assist in making the new product the best fit for our industry.

The event will begin with an overview of the new, revenue-based product proposed by AgriLogic Consulting, LLC, a dynamic and innovative supplier of risk analysis products and services to the agricultural insurance industry. Following the presentation, we will take comments and AgriLogic will answer questions from farmers and industry professionals about the proposed revenue-based product. NAFA has been working on this effort for many years so your involvement and feedback are very important.

To receive the virtual link, register for the Forage Revenue Crop Insurance Listening Session by clicking here. <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZUtf--gpzMuH9FY1gQ-TFFvoTuz4Vc1wp2A#/registration>

### 2024 UK Forage Workers Tour

This tour is for faculty, graduate students, technicians, summer students and others working with the UK forage program. The photo below is from Caroline Roper's farm (UK Master Grazer coordinator) in Crittenden County. Special thanks to Dr. Chris Teutsch and Caroline for organizing this tour. And to Dr. Jimmy Henning for taking photos (that's why he's not in this picture).



see blue.

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# Forage News



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## **Upcoming Events (see Forage website for details and to register, click on EVENTS)**

- June 12—**Electric Fence Troubleshooting School**, Butler County.
- June 27—**Alfalfa Hay Field Day**, Nicholas County.
- July 29—**Icelandic Horse Farm Field Day**, Shelby County.
- Aug. 13—**KFGC Field Day**, Marion County.
- Sept. 25-26—**Intermediate Grazing School**, Versailles, KY.
- Oct. 15—**Pasture Ecology Workshop**, Elizabethtown, KY.
- Oct. 15-16—**Heart of America Grazing Conference**, Elizabethtown, KY.
- Oct 17—**Regenerative Pasture Walk with Greg Brann**, Adolphus, KY.
- Feb. 25—**Alfalfa and Stored Forage Conference**, Lexington, KY.