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Forage News

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## Forage News [2001-01]

Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, University of Kentucky

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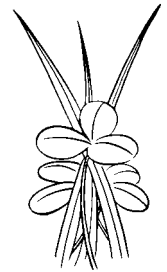
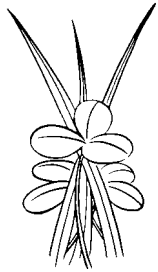
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# FORAGE NEWS



## In this month's issue:

- Forages at KCA • American Forage & Grassland Council Annual Meetings • Variety Testing Information Being Summarized • Department of Agriculture Hay Testing Expands • The Snow is Flying, Do You Know What Your Cattle are Eating? • 2000 Morgan County Bermudagrass Trial • Upcoming Events

**January 2001**

*Garry D. Lacefield and Jimmy C. Henning, Extension Forage Specialists • Christi Forsythe, Secretary*

## FORAGES AT KCA

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! I hope your New Year is off to a great start. As an eternal optimist, I'm expecting 2001 to be our best forage-livestock year ever in Kentucky.

I want to take this opportunity to extend a very special invitation to each of you to join us for "Forages at KCA". This year's Forage Symposium will be held from 9:30 to 11:00 on January 19 at the Executive Inn West in Louisville. Our committee has selected "Keys to Forage Profitability" as the Symposium theme.

The Forage Symposium will conclude in time for you to visit the exhibits before attending the KCA opening luncheon. Our KCA program planning committee is working hard to put together another outstanding convention filled with interesting, educational and entertaining presentations, along with wonderful fellowship.

The program for the Forage Symposium includes four speakers. Each speaker will address very practical issues facing forage-livestock producers in Kentucky. The program and speakers include:

9:30	Welcome
9:40	Keys to Profitable Forage Production - Dr. Garry Lacefield
10:00	Which Warm Season Grasses Work Best in Kentucky -Dr. Monroe Rasnake
10:20	Practical Strategies for Controlling Weeds in Pastures - Dr. Jimmy Henning
10:40	Round Bale Silage - Dr. Mike Collins
11:00	Discussion and Adjourn

A complete proceedings along with other publications will be available to all who attend. There is no registration fee for the Forage Symposium.

Look forward to seeing each of you January 19, 2001 at 9:30 at the Executive Inn West in Louisville.

## AMERICAN FORAGE AND GRASSLAND

## COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETINGS

The AFGC Annual Meetings are scheduled for April 22-25 at the Holiday Inn Atrium Hotel & Convention Center in Springdale, Arkansas. Hopefully, many of you will plan to go to the meetings. Kentucky will be represented in the Forage Spokesperson Contest by Russell Hackley who farms near Clarkson and is a member of the KFGC Board of Directors. An added attraction to this year's conference is a Forage Quality Symposium. Forage quality is one area of forage production that has a lot of room for improvement in Kentucky as well as nationwide.

We may try to schedule a van to transport people to the meetings from Princeton and/or Lexington. Anyone interested in going by van can contact me and then we can decide if it is feasible. Information on the meetings will be available on the web at [www.afgc.org](http://www.afgc.org) (Monroe Rasnake)

## VARIETY TESTING INFORMATION BEING SUMMARIZED

We are finalizing the data analysis and reports on all variety trials for 2000. These should be posted to the web in early 2001. Please see Forage News for further updates.

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HAY TESTING EXPANDS

The Kentucky Department of Agriculture has added a second testing van to aid in the promotion of hay testing across Kentucky. The vans are stationed in Paducah and Frankfort and are used to supplement forage education efforts. The process for testing hay is the same, and you start it by calling 800 248 4628 and setting up an appointment. A Department of Agriculture representative will come to the farm and sample any hay you want. They will process the sample and send back to you and your county agent

the forage analysis, which will include crude protein, ADF, NDF, TDN, Net Energy and RFV information. They will work with your county ag agent to make sure that you get a ration balanced with that hay if you desire. And all of this only costs \$10 per lot of hay tested.

## THE SNOW IS FLYING, DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR CATTLE ARE EATING?

Winter seems to have more teeth in it than last year, and that abundant hay supply in many places is looking more reassuring all the time. One thing is a constant: you need to get the hay tested to know the nutrient content so you can make economically sound feeding decisions.

The good news is that there are at least two ways to do this, depending on where you are and what your county agent for agriculture likes to do with their forage samples. The Kentucky Department of Agriculture will come to your farm and test your hay at a charge of \$10 per sample, and can offer further services at no charge like ration balancing (coordinated with and through your county ag agent) and marketing support. This marketing support comes in the form of a free email listing on the Dept. of Agriculture web site plus a digital photograph of the hay. There is not a better marketing service available anywhere at that price.

A second option is to use any other qualified laboratory. One way to know if a lab is competent is by checking to see if they are certified by the National Forage Testing Association (NFTA). One laboratory that UK and many counties use is the Chemical Services Laboratory out of Indiana. Your local county extension agent or Donna Amaral-Phillips or John Johns can give you more information about them.

The important point is test the hay. Underfeeding will result in more calf sickness and poor re-breeding in the cow herd. Now more than ever, we cannot afford to lose ag revenue when the solutions are so clear and so convenient.

## 2000 MORGAN COUNTY BERMUDAGRASS TRIAL

In the winter of 1999 a producer contacted me about a new bermudagrass that would solve everyone's mid to late summer forage problems. He expressed his interest and explained the advantages of extremely high yields and elevated levels of pasture potential from World Feeder bermudagrass. He also was eager to compare World Feeder with Alfalfa on many aspects of forage production. I began looking for research based information on World Feeder bermudagrass for Kentucky. I contacted Dr. Henning and Dr. Ditsch and started asking questions about this miracle grass. I soon learned that the University of Kentucky had not conducted research on World Feeder bermudagrass.

With that in mind I proposed doing a replicated trial on his farm with World Feeder being evaluated in the trial. The producer agreed to supply the land, supplies and management. The trial consisted of four varieties

replicated four times. Each plot was 10ft wide by 20ft long. The varieties included World Feeder (sprigged), Quickstand (sprigged), Wrangler (seeded variety), and CD90160 (experimental seeded variety). The trial was seeded on April 14<sup>th</sup> and was fertilized according to World Feeder requirements from Crown Marketing sprig supplier. An initial fertilizer treatment was applied which consisted of 100lbs of ammonium sulfate (21%N, 24%S) and 70 lbs of urea (45%N). An application of phosphorus (0-46-0) was applied at 110 lbs/acre. Potash was applied at 200 lbs/a (0-0-60) and 400 lbs of Calcium was applied as agriculture lime. An additional 60 lbs of actual nitrogen was applied on 7-6-2000 and another 60 lbs actual nitrogen was applied on 9-1-2000 as ammonium nitrate. The grass was harvested twice in this establishment year. The first harvest was on 8-21-2000 with the second harvest being on 10-2-2000. Yields are as follows.

2000 MORGAN COUNTY BERMUDAGRASS VARIETY TRIAL			
Variety	Establishment method	Establishment Rate/ac.	Total DM Yield Tons/acre
CD90160	seed	10.lbs.	3.3 a*
Quickstand	sprig	20 bu./ac.	2.9 ab
World Feeder	sprig	20 bu./ac	2.0 b
Wrangler	seed	10. lbs./ac	1.8 b
LSD(0.05)			1.0

\*Values within a column followed by the same letter are not significantly different at the 95% level of probability

Complete ground cover was achieved by all varieties by the first harvest date. This study will be continued in 2001. (SOURCE: Christopher Lindon, Morgan County Agricultural Extension Agent)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

JAN 19 Forages at KCA, KCA Convention, Louisville  
 FEB 10-21 International Grassland Congress, Brazil  
 MAR 1 21<sup>st</sup> Kentucky Alfalfa Conference, Cave City  
 MAR 6 Central Alfalfa Conference, Lexington  
 APR 17-19 Grazing School, Springfield

*Garry D. Lacefield Jimmy C. Henning*  
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 Extension Forage Specialists  
 January 2001