

Proceedings of the 24th Forages at KCA

Presented by:

University of Kentucky
Kentucky Cattlemen's Association
Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council
Kentucky Master Grazer

Friday, January 18, 2019
Owensboro, KY

C. Teutsch, C. Forsythe, and R. Pampell, editors



Foreword

This marks the twenty-fourth consecutive year we have had a Forage Symposium at the Kentucky Cattlemen's Convention. We challenge you to consider the content of the proceedings and the discussions of the day in light of your overall forage program. It is our hope you will go away with at least one idea or practice that you can implement to improve the profitability of your operation.

On behalf of the program committee, I want to thank Mr. Dave Maples and his staff at Kentucky Cattlemen's Association for their support, assistance, and encouragement. In addition, I want to thank the Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council and the Master Grazer program for their support of this session and continued efforts to advance grazing management in the Commonwealth through high quality educational programs. I would like to express sincere gratitude to our speakers for taking time out of their busy schedules to spend the afternoon with us and share their knowledge and insights.

A very special thanks is extended to Drs. Ray Smith and Jim Henning for their assistance in planning this program and to Christi Forsythe and Rehanon Pampell for assembling and printing these proceedings.

I encourage you to stay up-to-date with the latest forage research in Kentucky by subscribing to our online newsletter, Forage News, by visiting www.uky.edu/ag/forage. In addition, you will find a wealth of publications and other resources to help you better manage your forage resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris D. Teutsch". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "T" at the end.

Chris D. Teutsch, Program Chair

Forages at KCA

The Dollars and Sense of Grazing!!!

AGENDA

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| 1:55 PM | Welcome and Introductions-Chris Teutsch, University of Kentucky |
| 2:00-2:15 PM | Forage and Variety Update-Ray Smith, University of Kentucky |
| 2:15-3:00 PM | Profitability at Eldon Farms: Guiding Principles-John Genho, Eldon Farms |
| 3:00-3:45 PM | Economics of Grazing Cover Crops-Ed Ballard, University of Illinois Extension, Retired |
| 3:45-4:30 PM | Five Myths of Grazing-Greg Halich of Grazing, University of Kentucky |
| 4:30 PM | Survey and Adjourn |

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Our Speakers...



Dr. Ray Smith, Extension Professor, University of Kentucky

Dr. Ray Smith is a native of Georgia and received his undergraduate degree from Asbury University in Kentucky in 1983. After teaching high school biology for two years he entered a graduate degree program in Agronomy and Plant Breeding at the University of Georgia. From 1991-2001, Ray held a research, teaching and extension position at the University of Manitoba, Canada with a focus on alfalfa and native grass breeding, seed production and forage management. He was the Forage Extension Specialist at Virginia Tech from 2001-2004 and is now the lead faculty advisor for the UK Forage Variety testing program coordinated by Gene Olson. It is the largest forage variety testing program in the country. Ray is also the current chair of the Continuing Committee for the International Grassland Congress and past President of the American Forage and Grassland Council. He has published 43 articles in refereed journals, presented 165 papers at professional conferences, written over 120 extension publications, and given over 670 extension presentations. Ray has been the advisor for 16 master's students, 4 PhD's, 5 Post-docs, and 26 senior research students. His current extension activities include working closely with county agents and producers; conducting applied forage research for Kentucky and the transition zone; helping organize state, regional, national, and international forage conferences; and writing applied agricultural publications. His current research projects include: evaluating forage varieties for grazing tolerance and yield, developing forage production systems, pasture evaluation methods, and developing computer and time-lapse photography teaching tools.



John Genho, Farm Manager, Eldon Farms, Woodville, VA

John Genho has served since 2005 as General Farm Manager of Eldon Farms - a 7,000 acre property in the piedmont of Virginia. In this role, John manages the day-to-day operations of a 1,000 head cow/calf and stocker herd, sustainable hardwood timber cuts, and hunting leases. In addition, John specializes in genetic evaluations for beef cattle for Neogen Corporation. Current customers include some of the largest commercial cattle ranches in the United States and the majority of the Brahman-based breed associations. John has a BS in Animal Science from Brigham Young University, an MS in Animal Breeding and Genetics from Cornell University with a minor in biometrics and statistics, and an MBA from Duke University. John currently lives in Woodville, VA with his wife Lynn and their five children where they have a small cow herd and flock of sheep.



Dr. Edward N. Ballard, Retired Animal Systems Educator, University of Illinois Extension

Dr. Ballard was an animal systems educator who worked with producers and industry groups to enhance farm profitability and sustainability. His areas of specialization include forages and grazing management; nutrition; environmental management; animal care and behavior; fences; energy conservation; nutrient management and economics. Dr. Ballard has taught over 250 Management Intensive Grazing Schools for Illinois producers and is a co-author of the Illinois Grazing Handbook and National Extended Grazing Publications. He has made grazing presentations at the Ohio Forage Council, Western Ohio Grazing School, The Ohio State Extended Grazing Conference, Heart of America Grazing Conferences, Great Lakes International Grazing Conference, University of Kentucky Grazing School, 2nd National Grassland Grazing Conference in Nashville, TN, 3rd National Grazing Conference in St. Louis, MO, Wisconsin Grazing Conference, University of Kentucky Grazing Conference, Missouri Grazing Conference, Missouri Livestock Symposium and Michigan Forage Council. Dr. Ballard coordinated the forage and grazing research and demonstration projects for the University of Illinois Animal Systems team. He represents the University of Illinois on the Great Lakes Grazing Council and the Illinois Grasslands Conservation Initiative Committee. He currently serves as liaison and farm manager for the University of Illinois Dudley Smith Research Farm.



Dr. Greg Halich, Agricultural Economist, University of Kentucky

Dr. Halich works with farmers on profitability evaluation and improvement on livestock and grain farms. Current production focus areas related to livestock include grazing systems, extended season grazing, bale grazing (winter feeding technique that reduces machinery and labor and increases pasture fertility), grass-finished beef, and how to effectively manage fixed costs of production related to haymaking (depreciation and interest). He lives and farms in southern Woodford County where he produces grass-finished beef, corn, and soybeans.