



University of Kentucky
UKnowledge

International Grassland Congress Proceedings

XXI International Grassland Congress / VIII
International Rangeland Congress

A Forage Book of International Impact

Garry D. Lacefield
University of Kentucky

Donald M. Ball
Auburn University

Carl S. Hoveland
University of Georgia

Donald L. Armstrong
International Plant Nutrition Institute

Follow this and additional works at: <https://uknowledge.uky.edu/igc>



Part of the [Plant Sciences Commons](#), and the [Soil Science Commons](#)

This document is available at <https://uknowledge.uky.edu/igc/21/17-1/24>

The XXI International Grassland Congress / VIII International Rangeland Congress took place in Hohhot, China from June 29 through July 5, 2008.

Proceedings edited by Organizing Committee of 2008 IGC/IRC Conference

Published by Guangdong People's Publishing House

This Event is brought to you for free and open access by the Plant and Soil Sciences at UKnowledge. It has been accepted for inclusion in International Grassland Congress Proceedings by an authorized administrator of UKnowledge. For more information, please contact UKnowledge@lsv.uky.edu.

A forage book of international impact

Garry D. Lacefield¹, Donald M. Ball², Carl S. Hoveland³, Armstrong⁴

¹ University of Kentucky, P.O. Box 469, Princeton, Kentucky (USA) 42445, (glacefid@uky.edu); ² Auburn University, 120 Extension Hall, Auburn University, Alabama (USA) 36849; ³ Dept. of Crop and Soil Sciences, University of Georgia (ret.), Athens, Georgia 30602 (USA); and, Donald L. ⁴ International Plant Nutrition Institute, Norcross, Georgia 30092 (USA)

Key words : book , forage , livestock

Introduction Knowledge of forage production concepts and a way to locate practical forage information are needed by producers of grazing animals. Yet many forage publications are either too technical for producers to understand or have a narrow focus in terms of subject matter and/or geographical application. In 1985, authors of this paper first discussed the need for a comprehensive, practically-oriented forage reference publication because no such publication was then available. This led to development of an outline and to initiation of work on writing such a publication.

Materials and methods From the beginning, it was felt that the book should provide information on adapted forage species commonly grown in the Southeast USA, complete with color photographs of each one. It was also felt that there should be chapters on basic production topics such as soil testing and fertility, seed, establishment, and legume inoculation as well as on forage physiology, forage ecology, and forage quality. It was further decided there should be chapters on nutrient requirements of livestock, common forage livestock disorders, grazing management, as well as chapters dealing with specific livestock species including beef cows and calves, beef stockers, dairy cattle, horses, and even wildlife. Furthermore, the decision was made to include a comprehensive appendix to facilitate providing information of the type that most people do not normally remember.

Once a first draft of the publication had been put together, the authors contacted Potash & Phosphate Institute (now International Crop Nutrition Institute or IPNI) personnel and asked them if they would be willing to publish the book. They agreed to do so, which was fortunate since they had extremely talented employees to assist with editing, layout, and other aspects of the publication.

Results and discussion In 1991, the first edition of the book Southern Forages was published, and second, third, and fourth editions of the book were published in 1996, 2002, and 2007, respectively. The response to the book has been extremely gratifying. It has been widely accepted and used by livestock producers, seed, chemical, fertilizer, and equipment dealers; agricultural extension and natural resources personnel; vocational teachers; and consultants. It has been extensively used in grazing schools, in various types of short courses, and as a text in over 60 colleges and universities. Though the name implies a Southeastern United States orientation, orders for it have come from all over the USA and from more than 30 other countries, plus it has been translated into Polish and Chinese.

Two other items based on the book have been developed as well. A publication titled Forage Crop Pocket Guide that consists mainly of tables and figures from the book was published by IPNI in 1999. In addition, posters on Forage Grasses and Forage Legumes that contain color pictures of various species discussed in greater detail in the Southern Forages Book, are particularly useful in educational settings and seed outlets.

The popularity and wide use of this book suggest that the forage/livestock principles covered in Southern Forages, have no geographic boundaries. It also provides evidence that if there is truly a need for an educational item, meeting that need may have more dramatic results than initially expected. There is no doubt that this publication, which the authors originally had expected to be of benefit mainly to beef cattle producers in the Southeastern United States, has truly had a worldwide impact. For more information, see the IPNI website www.ipni.net/sf.