The Virginia Forage and Grassland Council Board of Directors consists of twelve directors elected from the members holding individual membership: six representing agri-business and six representing producers. Directors serve for a three year term and cannot serve more than two consecutive terms. The Nominating Committee is recommending the following individuals for election to the Board in 2015:

**Producer Member**

Miller Adams is Area Forester serving in the Pittsburgh, Halifax and Charlotte County work area, primarily serving landowners in Charlotte County for the Virginia Department of Forestry. He has worked for the Department of Forestry for just over 15 years. He grew up on a farm in Charlotte County. He and his parents have a commercial beef cattle operation and manage around 100 brood cows. He implemented very basic rotational grazing in early 2000 and has gradually increased the frequency in which cows are moved. Miller has an interest in silvopasture and has encouraged producers to communicate their experiences with other producers who have similar interest.

**Agri-business Member**

Zack Wampler (picture not available) is a field agronomist with Augusta Cooperative Farm Bureau in Staunton, Va where he works closely with growers with row crops, hay, and pasture. Prior to coming to the Co-op, Zack and his brother farmed full time raising commercial brood cows, stockers, and row crops. He still produces corn, soybeans, and stocker cattle on their farm in Mt. Crawford. Zack graduated from Va Tech in 2002 with a B.S. in animal science.

**Voting**

Voting will take place at each of the four locations of the Winter Forage Conference. IMPORTANT: Any member interested in serving on the Board of Directors in the future, please let us know.

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**PAID ADVERTISEMENT**

Beneficial Endophyte Tall Fescue: a high yielding, long-living variety you can count on.

Estancia with ArkShield® is the latest generation forage tall fescue variety exclusively inoculated with the beneficial endophyte, ArkShield®. Estancia tall fescue is the result of years of laboratory and field research by the University of Arkansas in cooperation with the University of Missouri. Estancia is a medium maturing, high yielding tall fescue with excellent seedling vigor. ArkShield® is a patented endophytic fungus that lives inside Estancia tall fescue seeds and plants in a mutually beneficial relationship; protecting the grass from disease, insects and environmental stresses like heat and drought. ArkShield® in a beneficial endophyte and has no negative effects on livestock, unlike K-31 which can lead to fescue toxicosis due to its toxic endophyte. The ArkShield® endophyte makes Estancia a more productive and persistent perennial forage grass resulting in better animal and pasture performance.

Estancia with ArkShield® produces tons of nutritious, palatable, high-quality forage that results in healthier cows, heavier weaning calves and improved steer and heifer weight gains. The recent trial conducted at Mississippi State University shows Estancia with ArkShield® to be a top producer, out-producing K-31 as well as BarOptima PLUS E34 and Max Q. See Table 1 below.

**Table 1. Mississippi State University (2012) Total Dry Matter Yields (tons/acre) of Tall Fescue Varieties at two locations (Holly Springs and Starkville)**

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<tr>
<td>Estancia with ArkShield®</td>
<td>6225</td>
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<td>K-31</td>
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<td>BarOptima PLUS E34</td>
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<td>Max Q</td>
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**Improved Cow/Calf Performance**

The 2007 Arkansas Animal Science Report showed a significant improvement on spring calving rates and weaning weights for animals grazing on Estancia with ArkShield® over toxic K-31. Cows grazing on K-31 had a 44.7% spring calving rate, while cows grazing Estancia with ArkShield® had a 65.7% spring calving rate and improved spring weight gains. The recent trial conducted at Mississippi State University shows Estancia with ArkShield® to be a top producer, out-producing K-31 as well as BarOptima PLUS E34 and Max Q. See Table 1 below.

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**2015 VFGC Board of Directors Nominations**

The Board shall also appoint a Technical Advisory Committee composed of six agricultural agency representatives. The following individuals have agreed to serve on this committee:

- Mike Phillips is a Soil Conservation Technician with NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service) serving Rockingham and Page counties. His duties include working with farmers and landowners to implement Best Management Practices to improve soil and water quality.
- Mike and his wife Susan also own and operate the 210 acre family farm, producing poultry and beef. They continue to work toward a year-round rotational grazing system, using innovative practices to improve soil health and reduce runoff. They have hosted numerous field days and farm tours and allowed graduate students to use the farm for research purposes.

- Alston Horn is an employee of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation for the past five years, where he assists Shenandoah Valley producers with navigating state and federal cost share programs, with emphasis in stream exclusion projects and other best management practices that reduce nutrient loading and promote water quality. Along with promoting best management practices Alston assists area producers in improving their grazing operation by rotational grazing or introducing other components to the operation. He also works on his family’s 140 cow/calf beef operation where they practice rotational grazing and stock piling tall fescue to increase grazing days each year.

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The renowned consultant to the livestock industry on animal behavior will present their perspectives on handling cattle to reduce stress. Half of the cattle in the U.S. and Canada are handled in equipment she has designed.

**Other Sessions**

- **The Allience for Grasslands Renewal**
  - Through education, seed quality control, incentives, and promotion, the coalition seeks to replace toxic tall fescue grass with tall fescue that hosts a non-toxic, "novel" endophyte.
- **Making and Utilizing Baled Silage**
  - Producing high-quality dry hay remains a challenge because of unpredictable weather. Speakers will discuss the fundamentals of producing and utilizing the best available alternative – baled silage.
- **Recent Improvements in Cool-Season Grasses**
  - The most recent breeding efforts to improve some cool season grasses will be presented by industry scientists.

**Other Activities**

- **View Products & Services in the Exhibit Area**
- **Volunteer and Poster Presentations**
- **NIRS Workshops**
- **Forage Spokesperson Competition**
- **Forage Bowl**
- **Emerging Scientist Competition**
- **Youth in Grazing Management Essay Contest**
- **Networking Opportunities**
- **Awards Banquet**
- **Photo Contest**

**Conference Details**

**Conference Registration**

Register for one day or all three. Call, email, or go to website for registration information and form.

**American Forage & Grassland Council**

Phone: 800-641-2342 Email: info@afgc.org Web site: www.afgc.org

**Conference Hotel**

Hilton St. Louis Frontenac $95/night + tax Call 1-314-993-1100 Reserve room by Jan 2, 2015, ask for AFGC block.

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**Hosted by the Missouri & Illinois Forage & Grassland Councils**

**Workshops, the Heart of the Conference**

- **Opening Session**
- **Temple Grandin: Tips for Low Stress Cattle Handling**
- **Cover Crops in Forage-Livestock Systems**
- **Forage Improvement: Something for Everyone**
- **Livestock Products/Dietary Guidelines: How Did We Get Here?**
- **Recent Improvements in Cool-Season Grasses**
- **Native Species for Forage-Livestock Systems**
- **NIRS: A Tool to Manage Forages**
- **Other Sessions**
- **The Allience for Grasslands Renewal**
- **Making and Utilizing Baled Silage**
- **Recent Improvements in Cool-Season Grasses**

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This directly relates to and impacts the perception and demand of red meat products produced and supplied by most of you on farms throughout Virginia. So the question we should all be asking is, "Are these conclusions based on scientific truth? Is it that simple or are there other research findings that contradict this position?" Most people believe that if the medical community is making recommendations then it is based on conclusive fact, but this is not always the case. Over the past several years more people have been questioning these conclusions, the information they are based on and the resulting policies put in place that are affecting all of us.

The VFGC has invited two of these professionals, Dr. Peter E. Garnett and E. N. Garnett, to be part of this year’s winter conference and to shed light on the background information that has been used to shape policy and the resulting impact that affects you on the farm, at the table and at the doctor’s office.

J. B. Daniel is an agronomist with NRCS and also serves on the VFGC Board.

The VFGC does not claim to know the full truth on this topic but, the organization is committed to finding out and bringing to light more of the facts and facilitating open dialogue with these presenters where questions can be asked and ideas can be challenged and respectfully debated. Remember the late radio host Paul Harvey. His daily broadcast was listened to by millions of Americans as he provided news and commentary. He would provide some thought provoking information leading up to a break and then say, "Tune in after the break for the rest of the story." So in the spirit of the late Paul Harvey, I ask you to join us in January at the winter forage conference for "The Rest of the Story." Register for this conference today, mark your calendar and attend, actively participate, ask the hard questions, and become better informed on this subject for the benefit of you, your family, your farm operation and community.

VIRGINA FORAGE AND GRASSLAND COUNCIL
2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Name ______________________________
Address__________________________________
City                                          State                                   Zip
County__________________________________
Daytime Phone____________________________
Email ____________________________________

Circle which meeting you will attend:
Weyers Cave Community Center, Weyers Cave
Wytheville Meeting Center, Wytheville
Dominion Agricultural Complex, Chatham
Gordonsville Vol. Fire Co. Hall, Gordonsville

$35.00 early registration per attendee
After January 3, 2015
$50.00 late registration per attendee
Student Registration $15.00 per student

Harlan White Scholarship Fund
Amount $________

Early registration must be post marked before January 3, 2015
Make Check Payable to: VFGC
Mail Check and Registration to:
2015 Winter Forage Conference
Margaret Kenny
3599 Indian Oak Road
Crewe, VA 23930

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Tall Fescue Toxicosis in Virginia

By: Matt Boother & John Benner

Tall fescue pasture is an important forage resource for cattle producers in Virginia. In addition to producing high quality forage throughout the growing season, tall fescue is known for its summer hardness and tolerance to grazing. Much of the fescue in the US is infected with a fungal endophyte that imparts this hardness to the plant. Unfortunately, the fungus produces alkaloids that are toxic to cattle, causing a number of health problems with reproduction and performance. Beef steers grazing infected fescue at breeding age have lower conception rates as well as higher rates of early embryonic death. Their calves can display reduced weight gain and lower weaning weights. Cows on fescue can also suffer a reduction in milk production of up to 50%. Additionally, fescue toxicosis can also have a large negative impact on the fertility of bulls. These issues occur mostly in cattle grazing fescue pastures during the heat of summer, and their damage can vary from apparent to subclinical. Additionally, a different set of problems related to gregarine of feet, tails, or ears can occur during colder weather. Research has shown that moderate to severe effects can begin to occur when as little as 40% of the diet is comprised of infected fescue, however, any amount of alkaloids in the diet can be harmful.

So, what is the likelihood that your cattle are at risk? While the answer to this question depends on many factors, it begins with identifying the infection level and toxin production of your fescue pasture. In an attempt to get a local snapshot of pasture toxicity, the Augusta County Extension office tested the basal forages in the Shenandoah Valley for the percentage of fescue infected, with the following results:

- 65% of pastures sampled were 100% infected
- 30% of pastures sampled were 80-90% infected
- Lowest infection level (1 pasture) was 50%

To investigate the matter further we tracked the alkaloid production of twelve infected pastures in fescue in the Shenandoah Valley during spring and summer of 2014. Erg alkaloids are the compounds produced by the fescue endophyte, that cause toxicosis. Their production is influenced by many factors including moisture, temperature, stage of plant growth, and nitrogen fertility. Represented on the five farms in the study were grazing management systems including: fescue for summer grazing, mowing or clipping, rotational grazing, and continuous grazing. Each treatment was tested for alkaloids one-to-two times monthly from May through August, resulting in over sixty pasture samples analyzed. Finding: The average alkaloid content of pastures in the study is shown in Figure 1 for the period from May through August. Individual fields and treatments ranged as high as 7,200 parts per billion (ppb). As with any toxic substance, getting a couple pounds of seed in February is minimal, but it carries great potential for diluting fescue toxicity and improving the energy and protein content of pastures.

*Figure 1. Average ergot alkaloid content of twelve fescue pastures in the Shenandoah Valley (May-Aug.)*

Removing the overwhelming competitive advantage of fescue will reduce pasture toxicity, as the endophyte and associated alkaloids are concentrated in stems and seedheads. In this study, however, we found that fescue alkaloids appeared to be unaffected by management. Pastures in a vegetative state were just as high in alkaloids as pastures where plants were flowering or setting seed. It is important to note that we sampled pastures in a way that mimicked animals’ selection of plant parts, for example, cattle in this study tended to consume the entire plant- seed head and all- up to the time of flowering, after which time they ignored stems and seedheads in favor of leafy undergrowth.

Perhaps the most promising finding comes from comparing sampling performed during the course of the study. While we selectively sampled only fescue for the purposes of comparing treatments, in one pasture we also collected a pasture sample every 2 weeks throughout the growing season to represent the grass species diversity (perennial ryegrass, Kentucky bluegrass, orchardgrass, etc.) existing in the pasture. Compared to the fescue-only sample, the diverse sample was 70% lower in alkaloid content (3381 ppb vs. 346 ppb), demonstrating that dilution can be a great tool to reduce pasture toxicity.

So what are some practical things the cattle producer can do to minimize risk of fescue toxicosis?

- **Insected legumes.** Don’t overlook alfalfa, birdsfoot trefoil, or annual lespedeza in addition to red and white clover. Many managers get hung up on growing fescue; focus on keeping legumes around while still using herbicides. One strategy to deal with this is to frost seed white clover every year or so to build a seedbank of dormant seed in the soil. This will...

Toxic Fescue Page 4

**Toxic Fescue From Page 4**

Estancia From Page 7

Estancia with ArkShield® pasture at the University of Arkansas

**Estancia From Page 7**

K-31 pasture at the University of Arkansas

As farmers think about next planting season and which tall fescue choice the choice should be clear. Choose Estancia with ArkShield®, it out-produces the other beneficial endophyte tall fescues and has stand longevity that is as good as or better than K-31 without the toxic side effects. Estancia with ArkShield® is packaged in a 25 lb. sealed foil bag to reduce air, heat and moisture transfer into and out of the bag that helps to ensure the viability of the seed and the live ArkShield® endophyte. Estancia with ArkShield® has both a guaranteed analysis tag ensuring the seed purity and germination, as well as a sow-by date ensuring the viability of the live endophyte. Moreover, Seedway, the producer of Estancia with ArkShield® has partnered with SeedWay to distribute this premium tall fescue variety. SEEDWAY is a full-line seed company, marketing fescue and turf seed in the northeast U.S. and vegetable seed from the Rocky Mountains to the east coast and Ontario, Canada. Founded in 1963 and headquartered in Hall, NY in the midst of the beautiful Finger Lakes region of Central NY, SEEDWAY maintains office and warehouse locations in Shoreham, VT, Hall, Trumansburg and Mecklenburg in NY, Mifflinburg, Emmas and Elizabethown in PA, and Lakeland, FL. The SEEDWAY team’s goal is to provide high-quality, disease resistant seed for seed. The SEEDWAY Mission: To partner with our customers to provide innovative, quality products and services. The VFDC does not endorse this product. This is a paid ad.
McQuillen with the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) allowed us to place 32 nest boxes at the Chapel View Prairie Conservation Area near Deepwater in Henry County. This 320 acre site is using patch-burn grazing as a component of their Tall-grass Prairie restoration effort.

One aspect of this study is that we are using volunteers to check many of the nest boxes during the breeding season.

Members of the Boone’s Lick chapter of the Missouri Master Naturalist program will be checking nest boxes at South Farm and at the BREC. Valerie Tate has been “volunteered” by David Davis to check the nest boxes at FSRC, while members of the Cole Camp Master Naturalists have offered to help check the nest boxes at Chapel View Prairrie CA.

Once the starlings have accepted the nest boxes, our volunteers will check on their breeding success every week to 10 days. They’ll record the number of eggs laid, the number of chicks that hatch and the number of young that fledge. By the end of the breeding season, mid-June, we should have a better idea of whether the grazing regime has any impact upon starling breeding success. Our expectation is that females that breed at FSRC and Chapel View Prairrie CA will have fewer young fledge than females that breed at South Farm. However, until we’ve gathered sufficient data we won’t be able to draw any conclusions.

Our hope is that by studying starling breeding success at FSRC we can add another reason for using rotational grazing practices in Missouri; not only does it make good economic sense, but producers that incorporate rotational grazing may also be making life more difficult for starlings.

Walter Wehtje, Ph.D. and Robert A. Pierce II, Ph.D. are with University of Missouri-Columbia.

Understanding How Grazing Practices Influence Starling Nesting Success

By: Walter Wehtje, Ph.D. and Robert A. Pierce II, Ph.D.

Few people have anything good to say about the European Starling (Sturnus vulgaris L.). Since they were introduced into North America less than 120 years ago, this European species has spread from Alaska to Argentina. In winter, when their flock numbers in the hundreds of thousands, feedlot operators can suffer feed losses of more than 20% every day to these birds. Adding injury to insult, starlings prefer to eat the more expensive protein supplements to corn. They’re also implicated in the spread of E. coli, Salmonella and Staphylococcus aureus to cattle feeders.

On top of cattle producers, why did MU’s Forage Systems Research Center (FSRC) place 64 nest boxes on their property this spring specifically designed to seduce starlings into breeding at their facility? Let’s try and explain.

Eugene Schieffelin, a wealthy Shakespeare enthusiast, introduced European Starlings to North America. He believed that every bird named in his favorite playwright’s works should be present in the New World and worked with the American Acclimatization Society to achieve this goal. With the help of European Starlings, Nightingales and Chaffinches failed, but the 80-100 European Starlings released in New York City in 1890 succeeded beyond anyone’s wildest imagination. The birds began breeding almost immediately after their release in New York and after that point they began spreading, and by the late 1940s, starlings had been recorded in nearly all of the United States and provinces of Canada. By the mid 1950s, starlings bred throughout most of the continent. Today researchers estimate that there are close to 200 million starlings in North America.

Starlings inhabit a wide variety of habitats if a few crucial needs are met. They require open country where they can forage on short, mown, or grazed fields. Their preferred diet during much of the year consists of soil invertebrates that they find by pushing their bills into the ground, opening their bills and then taking the mealworms, beetles, worms and other items from the resulting hole. During late summer they switch to fruits, if available. During the colder months starlings either find the nearest large herd of cattle. Here they forage on cattle feed and anything else they can find. In addition they require water, both in the form of water bodies, tree cavities and stock ponds. As anyone who has seen large flocks of these birds can attest, we have created marvelous habitat for starlings during the breeding season. At the BREC a variety of crops are produced which will provide some insight into how starlings respond to row crops and provide an ideal feeding habitat for starlings during the breeding season. At the BREC a variety of crops are produced which will provide some insight into how starlings respond to row crops and provide an ideal feeding habitat for starlings during the breeding season. At the BREC a variety of crops are produced which will provide some insight into how starlings respond to row crops...

Seedway

Butch Johns • 434-395-8701
It may be a bit of stretch to tie soil health to human health, especially since most of us gave up eating dirt by the age of three. But as livestock producers, we control the two critical steps between the two, the forages and the livestock. And each one of us is the physical embodiment of what the public loves to love, and what the public love to hate about agriculture.

We’re the saviors, the valiant stewards of the land, nurturing the soil, bringing salvation and healing while being victimized by big ag. Our forages and cover crops are the agronomic fashion accessory of the 21st century, beloved by both corporate agriculture and organic homesteaders for their role if emulating the net benefits of a functioning grassland.

Our forages and cover crops are the agronomic fashion accessory of the 21st century, beloved by both corporate agriculture and organic homesteaders for their role if emulating the net benefits of a functioning grassland. They are up to 6 inches long and no more than 1/2 inch wide. The leaves are arranged opposite to one another at the bottom of the plant and alternately near the top of the plant. The flowers are yellow, have 10 to 20 rays, and are 1 to 2 inches in diameter. There are 500,000 seeds per pound so 1 pound delivers 11.7 seeds per square foot, 0.25 pound (4 ounces) delivers 3 seeds per square foot, and 2.7 pounds delivers 30 seeds per square foot. The seed cost is $60 per pound of pure live seed so the seed to deliver seeds is available from seed companies in Pennsylvania and Kentucky.

Narrowleaf sunflower grows to a height of 6 to 10 feet. The leaves are up to 6 inches long and no more than 1/2 inch wide. The leaves are arranged opposite to one another at the bottom of the plant and alternately near the top of the plant. The flowers are yellow, have 10 to 20 rays, and are 1 to 2 inches in diameter. There are 500,000 seeds per pound so 1 pound delivers 11.7 seeds per square foot, 0.25 pound (4 ounces) delivers 3 seeds per square foot, and 2.7 pounds delivers 30 seeds per square foot. The seed cost is $60 per pound of pure live seed so the seed to deliver seeds is available from seed companies in Pennsylvania and Kentucky.

Bob Glennon is a Private Lands Biologist with the Conservation Management Institute at Virginia Tech. Several times a month he sends out information about native plants. These are primarily plants used by pollinators, the habitat of which is dwindling. Hope these will be interesting to our readers.

Narrowleaf or Swamp Sunflower (Helianthus angustifolius) is a native perennial warm season forb (wildflower) that just began to bloom in southeastern Virginia, and occurs throughout Virginia. It is adapted to moist, well-drained and poorly-drained soils. It is not adapted to dry soils.

From a grassland manager’s perspective, you have to wonder “How’s that going to work?”

Most contend they are proposing a solution, but in reality they are proudly proclaiming to the world that they have no idea how a grassland functions. That they don’t understand that without ruminants, grasslands will cease to be grasslands. That they don’t understand that ruminants are a critical part of the grassland ecosystem. And that they don’t recognize the potential environmental benefits of a well managed livestock production system. As a commenter at beefmagazine.com stated “If cattle are so bad how did the plains survive with millions of buffalo grazing on it?”

How do you manage a grassland without ruminants? You Don’t. You can’t.

For us, managing grasslands is not just a way of earning a living and raising our families. It’s much more than that. Our forages and our livestock play an essential role not only in the economic environment, but in the natural environment as well.

And like it or not, simply discarding livestock production does nothing to address the larger issue of human health and well-being.

Best Regards,
Patty Jonson
President, VFGC

Scholarship From Front Page

Agricultural IQ

By: Bob Glennon

We all see plants on our farms, or just on the roadside and wonder, what is that? Bob Glennon is a Private Lands Biologist with the Conservation Management Institute at Virginia Tech. Several times a month he sends out information about native plants. These are primarily plants used by pollinators, the habitat of which is dwindling. Hope these will be interesting to our readers.

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Bob Glennon is a Private Lands Biologist with the Conservation Management Institute at Virginia Tech

Dr. Harlan E. White Memorial Scholarship Fund Donation Form

Name: 
Organization / Business: 
Address: 
City: State: Zip: 
Phone number: 
e-mail address: 
Donation amount: $ 
Make checks payable to: VFGC and mail to: VFGC, Harlan E. White Memorial Scholarship Fund, 3599 Indian Oak Road, Crewe, VA 23930

The VFGC is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization, your donation may be tax deductible

To JOIN the Virginia Forage and Grassland Council a membership form can be found on the web at http://vaforges.org - Contact Margaret Kenny at makenny@vt.edu or call 434-292-5331
By J.B. Daniel

Have you ever heard this question before? You should have because mankind has been asking this question for thousands of years. If you’re like me, you have asked yourself this question before and I believe we should all be asking this question more and more these days. In a day and time with so much information readily available, literally at the tips of our fingers, it is ever more important for us all to consider the source of the information we are reading or watching before we assume it to be the truth.

Twenty years ago when I was actively pursuing my Agronomy degree at VA TECH, I was taught by my professors to not only reference the source of information I was using in papers, but to consider the source of information and discern whether the conclusions they were making were based on fact or opinion. This really opened my eyes to realize that what is published in a newspaper or magazine is quite different from results explained in a peer reviewed research publication. This is so important to understand and to keep in mind when we read or watch and process information. Everyone has an opinion based on something they have heard, seen or experienced otherwise. Some people are very passionate about their opinions on certain topics and they are motivated to get involved in accomplishing a greater agenda or mission. The conclusions we (individuals) make based on the information we are told, directly shapes our opinions, perspectives and feelings about certain topics. Therefore it is so important to know whether the source of your information on a topic is based on fact or opinion or if it based primarily on opinions and partial bias of so called “experts.”

So what does this have to do with forages or the Forage Council? The answer to that is everything, but most specifically the upcoming Winter Forage Conference series scheduled for January 20-23, 2015. This year’s conference theme is titled, “Red Meat, Forages, and Human Health.” Most Americans get their information in 60 second news blurs as they are riding to and from work each day. Much of what we hear about heart statistics in America is that heart disease, diabetes and obesity is on the rise and in some of the short news commentaries they relate that to the dangers of eating red meat. In fact, most of the general heart health information I’ve heard over the last 30 years has attempted to steer people away from eating much red meat. I believe this campaign has made an impression on a lot of people and probably decreased the amount of red meat livestock product consumed by many Americans.

Donate a call to the Dr. Harlan E. White Memorial Scholarship Fund

With record high cattle prices, the Virginia Forage and Grassland Council is asking you to consider donating the proceeds from the sale of one calf this fall to the Dr. Harlan E. White Memorial Scholarship Fund. This fund has been established by the Virginia Forage and Grassland Council in memory of Dr. White and will be used to award scholarships to deserving undergraduate and graduate students to help train the next generation of forage and grassland specialists.

Dr. White’s career was long and distinguished. He joined the Virginia Tech Agronomy Department in 1966 as an Extension Forage Specialist. In 1979, he was the driving force behind the formation of the Virginia Forage and Grassland Council which has grown to become a major voice for the forage and livestock industries in Virginia.

As livestock and forage producers, many of you personally knew Dr. White and there is a good possibility you attended a producer meeting or field day where Dr. White was a speaker. Many of you still utilize concepts that Dr. White developed such as stockpiling tall fescue for winter grazing. He pioneered no-till planting of forage crops and promoted the use of....