Registration from front page

The conferences will run from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm.

To register for this conference, please visit http://vaforages.org/event/2016-vfgc-winter-coferences/. You will have the option of registering online using a credit card or downloading the conference brochure/registration form that can be filled out and sent in with a check made payable to the VFGC. The early registration fee is $35 and must be submitted online or postmarked by Jan. 4, 2016. After January 4, 2016, the registration fee increases to $50 per person. A youth registration rate is available; please contact the VFGC for details.

For more information on this conference go to www.vaforages.org or contact Margaret Kenny (makenny@vt.edu) at (434) 292-5331.

Gordon Groover is Ag Economist at Virginia Tech and serves on the VFGC Board.

AGENDA

8:30 - 9:00	Registration
Morning Theme - Issues and Problems	
9:00 - 9:30	What we have learned about Tall Fescue - Matt Booher and John Benner, Virginia Cooperative Extension
9:30 - 10:15	Tall Fescue Toxicosis: Impacts on the Animal - Glen Aiken, USDA Agricultural Research Service, Lexington Kentucky
10:15 - 10:45	Break and Visit with Sponsors
10:45 - 11:30	Novel Endophyte Tall Fescue: Opportunities and Challenges - Joe Bouton, Bouton Consulting ******Sponsored by Pennington Seed******
1130 - 1200	Business Meeting and Forage Producer of the Year
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch and Visit with Sponsors
Afternoon Theme - Potential Solutions	
1:00 - 1:15	Ecology of Grazinglands: - Student Presentation
1:15 - 1:45	T-Snip: a Test for Tolerance to Toxicosis. - Craig Roberts, AgBotanica, LLC and University of Missouri Extension
1:45 - 2:15	Seedhead Suppression in Tall Fescue Pastures - Pat Burch, Dow AgroSciences
2:15 - 2:45	Producer Speaker - How I manage Tall Fescue on my farm
2:45- 3:30	Putting the Pieces Together: An Integrated Approach to Managing Tall Fescue in Grazing Systems - John Andrae, Clemson University ******Sponsored by BARENBRUG USA******
3:30	Adjourn and surveys

Program Registration

Register on-line at www.vaforages.org
or complete form and mail

No refunds for cancellation after January 4, 2016

Name _____

Name _____

Name _____

Address_____
_____

City ***State*** ***Zip***

County_____

Daytime Phone_____

Email_____

Check which meeting you will attend:

☐ Southern Piedmont AREC, Blackstone
☐ Wytheville Meeting Center, Wytheville
☐ Weyers Cave Community Center, Weyers Cave
☐ Brandy Station Fire Dept., Brandy Station

Early Registration - Before January 4, 2016
$35.00 early registration per attendee
Late Registration - After January 4, 2016 $50.00 late registration per attendee

Student Registration $15.00 per college or high school student
Harlan White Scholarship Fund
Amount $_____
Early registration must be post marked before January 4, 2016

Make Check Payable to: VFGC

Mail Check and Registration to:

2016 Winter Forage Conference
Margaret Kenny
3599 Indian Oak Road
Crewe, VA 23930

Grazier Goes To School to Improve Forage Production

Much like the oral traditions of Native American peoples, farming knowledge and skills are often passed from one person to another. Justin D. "J.D." Hill has been both a mentor and mentee in managing his cow/calf operation with 90 brood cows in Carroll County, Virginia.

Though he came from a farming family, J.D. knew that he needed to become a student to realize his vision of a more productive and profitable business that could support him in retirement. His operation encompasses 390 acres on four farms and five tracts, so he had a lot of ground to cover to make it more sustainable.

No Place Like Home

J.D.'s first exposure to conservation came through his father and the Soil Conservation Service (now NRCS). His dad received technical assistance to put in a watering trough but never lived to see it installed. That seed, first planted in the 1980s, took root as Hill recognized the benefits of protecting natural resources on the farm.

He began working with NRCS in 2011, focusing first on the home farm where his father was born and his grandfather had been a tenant farmer. At the time, he was using an open pasture grazing system where the cattle had access to about 90 acres throughout the year, and were drinking directly from the streams on the property.

The fields were primarily fescue and under-utilized in the open system. Though he'd tried growing hay for winter feed, J.D. found that he could purchase it more economically from other producers.

Building a Support Network

Galax District Conservationist Jeb Minarik helped J.D. plug into a Cooperative Conservation Partner-ship Initiative (CCPI) project designed to help farmers in 11 Southwestern Virginia counties increase income off pasture land and improve production by implementing and maintaining comprehensive grazing management systems.

Headed by the New River-Highlands Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council, the three-year grant project brought grazing experts directly to farms to work with producers, and included a grazing school for ongoing support.

Hill installed more *than a mile of pipeline along with watering troughs, stream crossings, and exclusion/cross fencing for his grazing system (photosby Jeb Minarik).*

A Galax student *sees rotational grazing in action while his*

Graduating with Honors

In that time, J.D. has begun to transform his land by installing approximately 13 acres of exclusion fencing and planting trees to benefit water quality and support wildlife habitat. He has also transitioned to a more efficient grazing management system with 27 paddocks, watering troughs, stream crossings, and exclusion/ cross fencing.

Hill recognizes the role of healthy soil in improving forage quality and quantity, and is paying more attention to soil testing and fertilizer applications these days. He knows that proper nutrient levels are critical to better forage production and reduced dependence on hay for winter feeding. In fact, J.D. hopes to one-day stop baling hay and owning/ maintaining hay equipment altogether.

Passing the Torch

Looking ahead, Hill hopes that his sustainable system will be a blueprint for future generations to follow. He willingly shares what he's learned with others and has opened his farm for son-in-law Aaron Horton to use as an outdoor classroom.

Galax Agricultural/Forestry students have walked J.D.'s pasture and forestland; seen rotational grazing and riparian buffers in action; and are currently raising trout to be released in a stream on the property. These experiences have given them a better understanding of natural resource protection and made them part of the oral tradition that sustains Virginia farming.

United States Department of Agriculture *USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. (Reprint with Permission)*

Justin D. "J.D." Hill
Carroll County, Virginia
390 acres
200 Acres of Pastureland
27 Permanent Paddocks
90 Stocker Calves
90+ Brood Cows
25 Watering Troughs
3 Years of Intensive Grazing

Control of Horsenettle

By: Matt Booher

Horsenettle is a thorny perennial that sprouts from spreading roots or rhizomes. Target roots and rhizomes by herbicide applications timed at early-flowering in July or August. It produces many seeds, which are often spread through berries contained in hay.

Multiple products can be effective on horsenettle when sprayed at high rates, however, products containing picloram or aminopyralid are stronger on perennials and have residual soil activity on existing or germinating weeds for up to several months.

In a 2014-2015 herbicide trial conducted in the Shenandoah Valley, six herbicides were applied at early bloom stage to horsenettle. Six weeks after treatment, all treatments except for Overdrive showed significant top-kill. One year after treatment the pyridine family herbicide were most effective at 95+% control. Due to hay restrictions, 2,4-D + dicamba would be the preferred treatment for hay ground.

Herbicide(s)	Rate	6 WAT	1 YAT
	product/acre	% Visual Control	
Grazon P+D	3 pt	90	95
Surmount	3 pt	90	95
Overdrive	8 oz	25	50
2,4-D + dicamba	2.5 pt + 0.5 pt	90	75
PastureGard HL	2.1 pt	60	50
Forefront HL, GrazonNext HL	2.1 oz	90	95
Untreated	-----	0	0

* All herbicides were applied with 0.5% v/v non-ionic surfactant

Image 1. Field at time of treatment

Image 2. Horsenettle showing the spreading rhizome and deep root system

Image 3. 95+% control (left) compared to untreated control (right), one year after treatment.

Upcoming Events

2016 AFGC Annual Conference
January 10-13, 2016
Baton Rouge, LA
www.afgc.org

2016 Winter Forage Conferences
January 26-29, 2016
Locations
Blackstone 1/26/16
Wytheville 1/27/16
Weyers Cave 1/28/16
Brandy station 1/29/16
www.vaforage.org

Livestock Risk Protection (LRP)

By: Tom Stanley

The Livestock Risk Protection Insurance Plan for Feeder Cattle (LRP-Feeder Cattle) is designed to insure against declining market prices. You may choose from a variety of coverage levels and insurance periods that match when you are holding the cattle.

You may buy LRP-Feeder Cattle insurance throughout the year from an approved livestock/crop insurance agent. Premium rates, coverage prices, and actual ending values are posted online daily. At the end of the insurance period, if the national feeder cattle price index is below the level for which you are insured, you receive an insurance payment. Values are based on weighted average prices, from the Chicago Mercantile Exchange Group Feeder Cattle Index, so you are insuring against national declines in feeder cattle prices, such as those we have experienced in the last six months.

Premiums are calculated on a per head basis, and there is no minimum, so you can purchase price protection even if you have only a few head to market.

Remember: this is insurance, so do not be disappointed if you don't receive a payment in which case it means national feeder cattle prices have stayed above your insured floor price. Do you drop your automobile insurance just because you go two months without wrecking your car?

This brief article gives only a general overview of the crop insurance program. For further information and an evaluation of your risk management needs, contact a crop insurance agent.

Useful Links:
Daily LRP Coverage Prices, Rates, and Actual Ending Values: www.rma.usda.gov/tools/livestock.html
Premium Calculator: https://ewebapp.rma.usda.gov/apps/costestimator/
Approved livestock agents and insurance companies: www.rma.usda.gov/tools/agent.html

Tom Stanley, Extension Agent, Farm Business Management Rockingham, Augusta, Rockbridge, Highland, and Bath Counties

Control of Bladder Campion

By: Matt Booher

Bladder campion (Silene alba) is a perennial that sprouts from a creeping, underground stem (rhizome). Target the plant during the bud stage to maximize delivery of herbicide to roots and rhizomes.

Research has shown best results with metsulfuron methyl, which is an active ingredient in Cimarron Plus, Chaparral, and Ally XP. You can also purchase metsulfuron methyl as generic metsulfuron. All of these products can cause crop injury in fescue and especially timothy

In a 2014-2015 herbicide trial conducted in the Shenandoah Valley, six herbicides were applied at bud stage to bladder campion. Six weeks after treatment, all treatments showed significant top-kill, however, only the Cimarron Plus + dicamba and Chaparral treatments showed rhizome damage (Fig.3). One year after treatment only two products successfully maintained control of bladder campion.

Herbicide(s)	Rate	6 WAT	1 YAT
	product/acre	% Visual Control	
Grazon P+D	3 pt	50	0
Surmount	3 pt	50	0
Overdrive	8 oz	50	0
2,4-D + dicamba	2.5 pt + 0.5 pt	50	0
Cimarron Plus + dicamba	0.5 oz + 0.5 pt	85	90
Chaparral	2.5 oz	95	95
Untreated	-----	0	0

* All herbicides were applied with 0.5% v/v non-ionic surfactant

Note: Due to hay restrictions with Chaparral, Cimarron Plus + dicamba would be the preferred treatment for hay ground.

Recommended applications:

Per acre
2.5 oz Chaparral

Per acre
0.5 oz Cimarron Plus

Image 1. Field at time of treatment

Image 2. Two effective herbicides one year after treatment. Note that the surrounding field was treated with the same active ingredient as the clean plots, but one month later. In the case of bladder campion, optimal timing is in the early bud stage of growth.

Image 3. Successful treatments showed rhizome damage 6 weeks after treatment.

Image 4. Unsuccessful treatments showed no rhizome damage and displayed green regrowth 6 weeks after treatment.

To JOIN the *Virginia Forage and Grassland Council* a membership form can be found on the web at
http://www.vaforages.org
Contact Margaret Kenny at
vfgcforages@gmail.com or

Reducing Beef Cow Numbers and Feeding Hay Fewer Days to Improve Profits

By: Tom Stanley

Virginia beef producers have enjoyed some good times in the cattle business over the past three years and despite a downturn the last half of 2015, profitability in the cow/calf sector is still above long term averages. The three to five year outlook for the cow/calf sector (the predominant type of beef production in Virginia) is still good. This has many cattlemen contemplating how they might retain more of their own heifer calves or acquire additional cows to capitalize on this profitable environment.

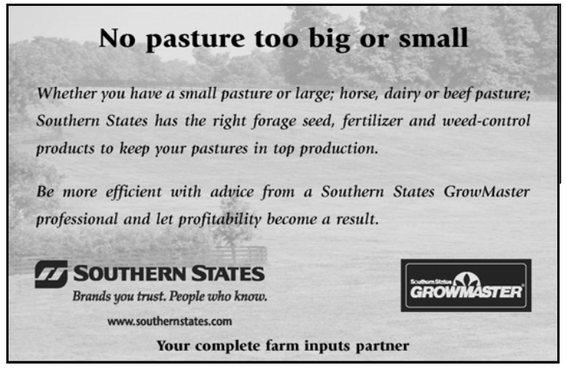
Rather than exploring how to expand their herd, cattlemen should be asking; "How do I improve my long-run profitability?" The answer may not lie in herd expansion. The availability and accessibility of land will be critical factors for an expansion to be profitable. In some cases, the additional land available does not have water for cattle or lacks necessary infrastructure such as fencing, so the cattleman relies on producing hay at the new site in order to add cows to an existing herd. Here is where the cattle producer needs to carefully examine cost of production and labor efficiency before expanding a cow herd.

In a budget analysis of a 100-cow herd under typical Virginia production conditions and current market prices, estimated annual net income was $31,850 well above a 10-year average of around $22,000! In this scenario, the cattleman was relying on hay as the primary feed source from mid-December to mid-April. When this budget analysis is re-run with the production from 90 cows and the number of days feeding hay reduced by 30 (all other factors held the same as the 100 cow herd and the same total acres) the projected net income was $33,601! Or an increase of $1,751 with 10 fewer cows! Make note that this increase in net income has nothing to do with the sale of the 10 cows. That income is the sale of a capital asset and is not included in this budget comparison.

Every farm situation is different and has its own unique cost structure. The point is that making and feeding hay is very expensive and some Virginia cattlemen may be better off utilizing current profits to improve infrastructure (water and fencing improvements) that allows them to stockpile and manage fall and winter grazing and reduce the number of days they feed hay. A further incentive is that the cost of water and fence improvements can be partially covered by public funds when the cattle producer implements approved soil and water conservation practices with the help of the local Soil and Water Conservation District.

If you would like to explore a beef cattle budget analysis customized to your herd, contact an Extension Agent for Farm Business Management through your local Extension Office.

Tom Stanley, Extension Agent, Farm Business Management
Rockingham, Augusta, Rockbridge, Highland, and Bath Counties



Frost Seeding Clover: JUST DO IT!

By: Chris D. Teutsch

Everyone is familiar with Nike's ad campaign that encourages people to "JUST DO IT". I am officially adopting this slogan for my 2016 Frost Seeding Campaign. Legumes are an essential part of a strong and healthy nitrogen cycle in grasslands. In many cases they come by themselves when we start to manage for them, but in some instances, we need to introduce them back into our pastures. Listed below are a few steps that we can take that will help to ensure that our frost seedings are successful.

Control Broadleaf Weeds. Broadleaf weeds must be controlled prior to frost seeding.

Soil Test and Adjust Fertility. Lime and fertilize pastures for legumes.

Suppress Sod and Decrease Residue. Graze pastures closely in late fall and early winter.

Frost Seed on Proper Date. Frost seeding works best when done earlier rather than later. February is an ideal.

Use High-Quality Seed of an Adapted Species. In Virginia, a good mixture for renovating pastures with is 4-6 lb red clover, 1-2 lbs of ladino or grazing white clover, and 10-15 lb of annual lespedeza per acre.

Use Correct Seeding Rate. Calibrate your seeder prior to frost seeding.

Frost Seeding Page 11

Control of Milkweed

By: Matt Booher

Milkweed (Asclepias syriaca) is a perennial that sprouts from large, fleshy roots and deep, spreading rhizomes (underground stems). Target the roots and rhizomes through herbicide applications at the early-bud stage in early-summer or on fall growth. Milkweed cannot tolerate frequent mowing.

In a 2014-2015 herbicide trial conducted in the Shenandoah Valley, five herbicides were applied at bud stage to milkweed. Six weeks after treatment, all herbicides showed moderate suppression and limited rhizome damage. Evaluation one year after treatment showed varied results, with the need for additional herbicide usage in year two on all treatments in order to eradicate the milkweed. The need for a follow up application for total control of milkweed is a testament to the tenacity of its tough rhizome.

Herbicide(s)	Rate	6 WAT	1 YAT
	Product/acre	% Visual Control	
Surmount	3 pt	60	90
Overdrive	8 oz	40	50
GrazonNext HL	2.1 pt	40	80
PastureGard HL	2.1 pt	55	70
2,4-D + Remedy	2.5 pt + 1 pt	45	80
Grazon P+D + Remedy	3 pt + 1 pt	65	75
Untreated	-----	0	0

All herbicides were applied with 0.5% v/v non-ionic surfactant

Note: Due to hay restrictions with Grazon, GrazonNext HL, and Surmount, these herbicides would not be recommended for hay ground.

Image 1. Field at time of treatment.

Image 2. Six weeks after treatment showed suppression with limited .

Image 3. Evaluation one year after treatment ranged from 50% control (left) to 90% control (right).

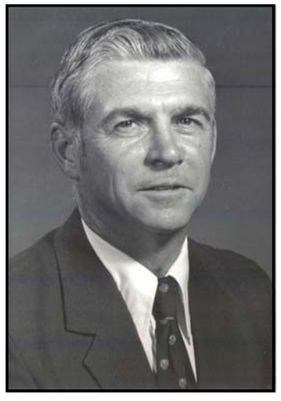
Matt Booher is a Crop and Soil Sciences Extension Agent, Augusta County .

Harlan White Scholarship Fund

By: Richard Ruff

Every young boy fantasizes about the career he will have to support his family with when he becomes an adult. I had two. An engineer on a steam engine for the N & W or every true Celtic's dream; live off the land with livestock. The N& W retired the steam locomotives when I was twelve so I ended up as a cattleman. Very few adults are fortunate enough to make a living chasing their childhood dream. My first memory of farming was breaking my fingers in the cog wheel on the old corn sheller at seven years old while feeding the sheep and pulling the wagon up beside the thrashing machine with the 8N Ford that summer with all the old farmers telling me how to do it. I made my first income selling orphan lambs and latter selling cream from the milk cow.

My experience in army basic training built enough confidence that I could do anything I made my mind up to do if I had the knowledge to do it. Everyone discouraged me from farming so I bought a couple of trucks and did custom fertilizing and spraying for thirty years. Sixty years after getting my hand caught in that old hand sheller I'm making a good living doing what I always wanted to do, marketing grass through value added cattle. The doctor who owned my great great grandfather's farm across the road showed my father an article about stockpiling fescue. Dr. Harlan White was mentioned in the article so I went to hear him speak at the next extension meeting. In the late summer of 1973 while I was spreading fertilizer for Royster I top dressed 35 acres of fescue and shut the gate. My daddy wanted to know what a doctor knew about grazing and thought I had lost my mind. I even took the snow plow and uncovered the fescue, but he never would admit that stockpiling was the reason for all the hay left over every winter. Forty years later my neighbors can't figure how I can carry a brood cow through the winter on less than a ton of hay. While they were sitting around the country store complaining about the price of calves compared to the cost fertilizer I was attending the VFGC meetings listening to Harlan White.



Without Harlan White I would not have been able to pass on his money making advice to my fertilizer customers to help their management decisions such as stockpiling fescue, rotational grazing, or creep grazing. We probably wouldn't have a Virginia Forage and Grassland Council without his leadership. I learned from him how to keep the cost down with self harvested feed from grass without sacrificing the stocking rate or pay weights. Since I'm living out my boyhood dream and making a good living marketing grass through cattle, I want to return a small portion of my profit to the Dr. Harlan White Scholarship Fund so that some young person with a dream of being free will have the knowledge to live off the land with livestock. I wouldn't be where I am today without the information I learned from Harlan. I donated $500 at the winter meeting in Blackstone and hope to be fortunate enough with the outlook for cattle prices do donate more in the future in honor of a great man.

Richard H. Ruff, 1485 Colony Heights Rd. , Goode, VA 24556.

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President's Message

As we wined down another year, we can certainly be thankful for the many success's that we have achieved as forage producers, in what has certainly proved to be a challenging year. It is certain that success is always predicated upon hard work and strong efforts. So, as you look back and reflect on 2015 you can be sure that your hard work and strong efforts have paid dividends in your farming operations.

Just as on the farm, your VFGC Board of Directors has worked diligently in 2015 to provide valuable educational programs that would assist you with forage production. Just as on the farm our Board is not resting on their laurels. The board has been working feverishly to put together another strong year of programming for you the producer.

We will start 2016 with our traditional Winter Conferences throughout the state. The focus of these conferences will be "Tall Fescue Production". This year's conferences will prove to be the best educational program dealing with fescue in the country. You will have the opportunity to learn from nationally renowned experts on fescue production.

You should have already received in the mail the flyer outlining these conferences. With fescue being the mainstay of most forage operations in Virginia, you won't want to miss this great opportunity, right in your backyard to learn the most cutting edge information in regard to fescue production. Don't delay in filling out the registration form and mail it in.

We hope you will plan to be part of our 2016 Winter Conferences.

Best Regards,
Jon Repair

Feeder Design Can Reduce Hay Waste

By: Dave Lalman

Researchers at Oklahoma State University recently studied the effects of four different hay feeder designs (shown at right) on hay waste.

The open bottom feeders wasted an average of 21% of the original bale weight. The sheeted (solid) bottom feeder reduced hay waste to 13%. However, a modified cone feeder with a sheeted bottom reduced hay waste down to just 5%. The feeders with sheeted bottoms are more expensive than the open bottom feeders, but consider the following example:

A producer with 30 cows feeds 230 bales of hay weighing 750 pounds each during a five-month period. Assume hay is $30 per bale. Annually, the modified cone ring feeder (CONE) will waste $365 worth of hay while the SHEET, RING and POLY feeders will waste $897; $1414; and $1450 worth of hay, respectively. In this example, the decrease in wasted hay will more than pay for the cost of the hay feeders.

Study by Dave Lalman, Oklahoma State University Cooperative Extension beef cattle specialist

modified cone
(CONE)
5 % hay waste

sheeted-bottom
(SHEET)
13 % hay waste

open-bottomed
(RING)
21 % hay waste

polyethylene pipe
(POLY)
21 % hay waste

Control of Dogbane

By: Matt Booher

Dogbane (Apocynum cannabinum) is a perennial that sprouts from a large taproot and spreading root system. Target the plant, taproot, and root system through herbicide application at the early-bud stage in early-summer & again on any fall growth.

In a 2014-2015 herbicide trial conducted in the Shenandoah Valley, five herbicides were applied at bud stage to dogbane. Six weeks after treatment, all herbicides except Overdrive showed significant top-kill. Evaluation one year after treatment showed similar results, with all treatments except for Overdrive showing exceptional control of dogbane.

Note: Due to hay restrictions with Grazon and Surmount, these two herbicides would not be recommended for hay ground.

Herbicide(s)	Rate	6 WAT	1 YAT
	product/acre	% Visual Control	
Grazon P+D + Remedy	3 pt + 1 pt	90	95
PastureGard HL	2.1 pt	90	95
Overdrive	8 oz	40	0
2,4-D + Remedy	2.5 pt + 1 pt	90	90
Surmount	3 pt	90	95
Untreated	-----	0	0

All herbicides were applied with 0.5% v/v non-ionic surfactant

Image 1. Field at time of treatment

Image 2. Dogbane has a strong creeping rhizome

Image 3. Example of effective control one year after treatment

Matt Booher is a Crop and Soil Sciences Extension Agent, Augusta County .

Frost Seeding Page 9

Inoculate Legume Seed. Always use inoculated legume seed or inoculate it with the proper strain of nitrogen fixing bacteria.

Check Seed Distribution Pattern. The spread pattern of spinner type seeders is often narrower than most people think.

Control Post-Seeding Competition. Clip or graze the existing vegetation to a height just above the developing seedlings.

Pray for Rain. Lastly and most importantly pray for rain.

For more information on frost seeding contact your local extension agent or visit Virginia Cooperative Extension's webpage at http://www.ext.vt.edu/.

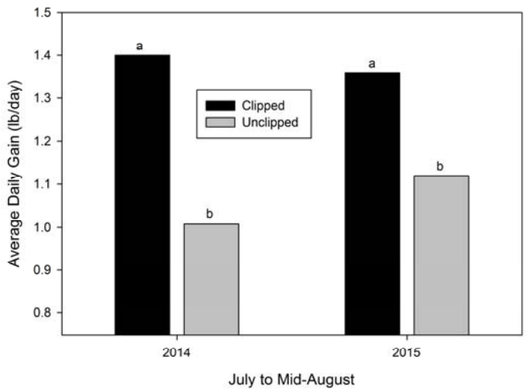
Chris Teutsch works at Virginia Tech's Southern Piedmont Research Station located near Blackstone, VA and resides on a small farm in Dinwiddie County with his wife, Angie and their four children.

VIRGINIA FORAGE AND GRASSLAND COUNCIL
3599 Indian Oak Road
Crewe, Virginia 23930

Stockpiling Novel Endophyte Tall Fescue for Summer Grazing

By: Chris Teutsch and Brian Campbell

In Virginia and other transition zone states, high temperatures and drought often limit forage availability during the summer months. This area of the U.S. is also dominated by tall fescue, most of which is infected with the toxic endophyte. The use of tall fescue pastures during the summer months has been discouraged due to tall fescue toxicois. The incorporation of novel endophyte tall fescue into grazing systems has the potential to alter usage patterns. Past research has focused on stockpiling tall fescue in late summer for winter grazing. However, non-toxic tall fescue could potentially be stockpiled during spring to provide grazing during the summer months. The objective of this study was to evaluate animal performance on novel endophyte tall fescue that was stockpiled for summer grazing. Pasture growth was either allowed to accumulate from spring green up to the start of the study or pastures were clipped in mid-May and growth was allowed to accumulate. All pastures were fertilized with 60 lbs of N/acre in mid-May. Heifers in 2014 (551 lb avg.) and steers in 2015 (491 lb avg.) were randomly assigned to the treatment-replication combinations. Grazing was initiated in early July and ended in mid-August. Cattle were weighed every two weeks. In 2014, heifers grazing pastures that were clipped had higher ADGs than calves grazing unclipped pastures (1.38 versus 1.20 lb/day) (P = 0.05). In 2015, steers grazing the clipped pastures also had higher ADGs (1.40 versus 1.09 lb/day) (P = 0.09). These data indicate novel endophyte tall fescue stockpiled for summer grazing can support reasonable levels of ADG during the summer months, especially if pastures are clipped or grazed to remove reproductive tissue prior to stockpiling.



Average daily gains for calves grazing stockpiled novel endophyte tall fescue in July and August 2014 and 2015.

Chris Teutsch works at Virginia Tech's Southern Piedmont AREC located near Blackstone, VA and lives on a small farm in Dinwiddie County with his Angie and their four children. Brian Campbell is a Technical Support Manager at DSM Nutritional Products and resides in Texas.

THE
VIRGINIA FORAGER

A publication of the Virginia Forage and Grassland Council

Volume 37 Number 1 Winter 2016

Tall Fescue in the 21st Century is the Focus for the 2016 Winter Forage Conferences

By: Gordon Groover

Theme: Tall Fescue in the 21st Century: Understanding and Managing Tall Fescue in Grazing Systems

Tall Fescue in the 21st Century is the theme for the Virginia Forage and Grassland Council (VFGC) and Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) winter forage conferences. This year's conference highlights current knowledge and practice that producers can apply to management of their tall fescue based grazing systems. This year's speakers are nationally recognized experts in tall fescue production and management. The morning program will focus on understanding issues and problems with tall fescue and the afternoon program will explore potential solutions to these problems.

Matt Booher and John Benner, extension agents in Augusta County, will set the stage for the conference by discussing results from field trials conducted in the Shenandoah Valley. The morning program will then feature Dr. Glenn Aiken from USDA-Agricultural Research Service's Forage-Animal Production Research Unit in Lexington Kentucky. Dr. Aiken will explain the impact that tall fescue infected with the toxic endophyte has on the animal and provide a research update on tall fescue toxicosis. Following the morning break, Dr. Joe Bouton, Emeritus Professor, University of Georgia and former Director of the Forage Improvement Division at the Noble Foundation, will discuss the opportunities and challenges of incorporating novel endophyte tall fescues into grazing systems.

After lunch Dr. Craig Roberts, AgBotanica, LLC and University of Missouri Extension will discuss a new genetic test for evaluating the tolerance of cattle to tall fescue toxicosis. The test, called the T-Snip, is the first commercially available genetic test that can identify cattle with improved tolerance to tall fescue. Pat Burch, field scientist with Dow AgroSciences, will discuss chemical seedhead suppression in tall fescue pastures as a potential component of an integrated approach to tall fescue management.

Following lunch students from Virginia Tech will share their experiences from a two-week, multi-university traveling course that started in Texas and ended in Colorado. The objective of this course is to allow students to learn about the various components of grazing systems and how they differ in various regions of the country. The VFGC is proud to have sponsored the students from Virginia Tech.

The highlight of the conference will be producer speakers from each region of the state that will describe how they manage tall fescue on their farms. These speakers will provide an overview of their operations and share insights on how they are managing tall fescue at the farm level.

The final presentation of the day will be made by Dr. John Andrae of Clemson University. Dr Andrae is a researcher and extension specialist and co-author of Fescue Toxicosis and Management. He will help participants understand how to put all the pieces together and how to integrate what they have learned into a plan to better manage tall fescue in their grazing systems.

The daylong conference will be repeated at four locations:

Tuesday, January 26, 2016, Southern Piedmont AREC, Blackstone.

Wednesday, January 27, 2016, Wytheville Meeting Center, Wytheville

Thursday, January 28, 2016, Weyers Cave Community Center, Weyers Cave

Friday, January 29, 2016, Brandy Station Fire Department, Brandy Station

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Reporting the progress of Virginia's forage industry