



# Forage Feed

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**2007 Forage Expo  
Thursday, September 6, 2007  
Shelby County**

The Illinois Forage Expo will be held Thursday, September 6 from 9 am to 4 pm at the Prescott Frost Farm in Shelby County. The Expo site is located 14 miles north of Shelbyville, IL on Route 128.

The Frost Farm includes a 150 head beef cow/calf operation, certified organic grass fed beef finishing system and certified organic hay and pasture acres.

The Forage Expo will include forage equipment demonstrations, commercial exhibits, Quality Hay Contest and forage related educational sessions. A complete agenda of the Expo's activities are listed on page 3 of this newsletter.

**Quality Hay Contest  
Forage Expo**

The Quality Hay Contest at the Forage Expo will include four hay classes: alfalfa, grass, alfalfa/grass mix, other. Forage producers may enter one 2007 harvested bale per class and entries are accepted from 9 am to 11 am only at the Expo site on September 6. Compressed or rebaled bales are not eligible.

Bales weighing over 100 pounds need an official scale weigh ticket. Entries will be evaluated on bale density, visual assessment, crude protein, acid detergent fiber, neutral detergent fiber, relative feed value and relative forage quality. There is no entry fee and NIRS analysis will be conducted free of charge.

**Important Dates**

- September 6, Illinois Forage Expo, 9 am—4 pm, Shelby County
- January 26-31, 2008, Joint Annual Conference of American Forage & Grassland Council and Society for Range Management, Louisville, KY



**Field demonstrations at the 2006 Forage Expo, Boone County**



**Enter your 2007 hay bales in the Quality Hay Contest !!**

## Tips for Late Summer Seeding of Annual and Perennial Forages

*by Jim Morrison, University of Illinois, Crop Systems extension educator*

Late summer seeding time for forage crops in Illinois is fast approaching. Let's review some management suggestions.

Since perennial legumes and cool-season grass seedlings need 6 to 8 weeks of growth or be six to eight inches tall prior to a killing frost, August 15-September 1 and September 1-15 are the preferred seeding dates for the northern 1/3 and southern 2/3rds of Illinois, respectively.

Warm-season perennial grasses should not be seeded until the spring.

Planning ahead is critical for alfalfa and grass seedings. Be sure there is no residue carryover potential from previously applied herbicides. Have problem perennial weeds been controlled? Soil tests should have been taken and any corrective limestone already applied. Fertilizer can be applied during seedbed preparation.

If there is not adequate soil moisture, seed should not be planted. A firm seedbed is needed to ensure good seed-to-soil contact. In prepared seedbeds, follow the "footprint guide" - soil should be firm enough so a footprint no deeper than one-half inch remains. A general rule of thumb is that seeds should not be planted deeper than five times their diameter. For most forage crops, the seeding depth should not exceed one-half inch. Tilling the seedbed may not be necessary, as no-till forage seedings can be made into small grain stubble, once the straw is removed.

Do not seed alfalfa following an older established stand. Compounds are released by the older alfalfa that inhibits the growth, development, and production of new alfalfa

seedlings. If the alfalfa is more than one year of age, it is best to rotate to another crop before going back to alfalfa. If less than a year, alfalfa can be replanted.

Be sure to use high quality seed of known varieties and use the proper inoculum for legumes. Typically, seeding rates are the same as with spring seeding, but a companion crop should not be included. Late-summer alfalfa, cool-season grass seedings should not be harvested this fall.

Certain annuals may be seeded now to provide forage later this growing season. One option is spring oats seeded into wheat stubble. Based on two years of data from the University of Illinois Agronomy Research Center, Shabbona, four oat varieties seeded at 100 pounds per acre averaged 1.8 tons of dry matter per acre when planted in mid-August and harvested in late October. Crude protein averaged 17.7 percent and relative feed value was 154. Another option is to seed two bushels of spring oats plus two pounds of turnips per acre in wheat stubble for harvest by grazing or perhaps as silage.

Some graziers have been successful with aerially seeding winter rye, or winter wheat, and/or spring oats into standing corn in late August-early September. Turnips have been included in some of these seedings. The intent would be to graze the small grain forage and corn residue together. This option has some risk as adequate soil moisture must be available for germination and establishment.

Further information is available at University of Illinois Extension offices and in the Illinois Agronomy Handbook, <http://iah.aces.uiuc.edu/>.

# Illinois Forage Expo

## Thursday, September 6, 2007, 9 am to 4 pm

### Prescott Frost Farm, Shelby County, IL

150 head beef cow/calf operation, certified organic grass fed beef finishing system,  
120 acres of hay, certified organic hay and pasture acres.

**Directions:** located 14 miles north of Shelbyville, IL on Route 128

- 9:00 am**            **Registration, Commercial Exhibits Open,  
Quality Hay Contest Entries Accepted**
- 9:00 am - noon**   **Hay Evaluation Contest**  
*Test Your Skills. Does your Hay Visual Assessment Skills Match NIR Analysis?*
- 9:30 am**            **Forage Production APH & GRP Insurance**  
*USDA Risk Management Agency Representative*
- 10:00 am**           **Conventional vs Natural Beef Production Systems**  
*Frank Ireland, Univ of Ill, Dixon Springs Agricultural Center, Simpson, IL*
- 10:00 am**           **Mowing Field Demonstrations**
- 10:30 am**           **Developing a Marketing Plan for Organic Commodities**  
*Stan Schutte, Triple S Farms, Stewardson, IL*
- 11:00 am**           **Raking and Tedding Field Demonstrations**
- 11:00 am**           **Prescott Frost Farm Tour**
- Noon**                        **Lunch Available on Site**  
**Recognition of Forage Expo Host**
- 1:00 pm**            **The Role of Forages in an Organic Crop & Livestock System**  
*Jack Erisman, Organic Producer, Pana, IL*
- 1:30 pm**            **The Secrets of Forage Establishment**  
*Ed Ballard, retired Univ of Ill Animal Systems Extension Educator*
- 2:00 pm**            **Baling Field Demonstrations**
- 4:00 pm**            **Forage Expo Adjourns**

#### Co-Sponsors:



## AFGC Update by Roger Staff, IFGC member

*by Roger Staff, AFGC board member & IFGC co-secretary/treasurer*

To start with the IFGC auction items helped make a success of the AFGC meeting! There were several contributors, which I won't mention, but the items I will: an orange basket (Illini orange), several canned goods (Illinois products) and Elk sticks and sausage, all this was enough to fill two baskets; 2 John Deere toys; bottle of red wine with 5 lb. block of IL cheese; a bottle of white wine with 5 lb. block of cheese; and one Illinois Grazing Manual all totaled \$180.30 from IFGC support. The auction returned \$400 to AFGC for these items, which contributed to the total exceeding of \$5000 from both the live and silent auctions and a 50/50 raffle. AFGC annual meeting had 331 in attendance and 176 register for the tours. There was a tour of the Penn State and ARS research facilities. It is amazing the forage research that some universities are doing! The work is being done on forage production and utilization as well as carbon sequestration models.

Ron Atherton was seated on the board as one of the new AFGC board members. The AFGC board is looking at expanding the Forage Leader to a printed form to be mailed as well as the existing email version. The AFGC board wants to help publicize any Affiliate Council events and is trying to have a board member attend as many council events as can be arranged. Bandy and Associates has been posting our IFGC events on the AFGC website this year to help publicize them for us. I have invited Michael Bandy to attend any of our forage activities that they can work into their schedules. If Michael can attend our Forage Expo I'll have him share any AFGC news at the noon ceremonies.

At the AFGC board meeting I introduced Dennis Thompson, NRCS National Range Ecologist. He discussed the opportunity for AFGC to write letters of support for a grazing land

Natural Resources Inventory, NRI, on our nations grazing lands including pasture, rangeland and grazing woodland. This would provide information on the status, needs, and conditions of pastureland and grazed woodlands. AFGC whole heartedly supports the collection of forage pasture resource information on pasture type, species composition, and soils management intensity. NRCS has completed a NRI inventory for many years on cropland, hay-land and land conversion (urban development) but not grazing lands. The AFGC Board supported this with a unanimous vote and is in the process of sending letters to key NRCS decision makers. This was done in hopes of bolstering support through the agency to start and continue this resource inventory of our nations grazing lands. This has not been done before to my knowledge, nationally.

If you haven't been on the AFGC website take a look at the up coming annual meeting information and the afghan that has been developed for the joint meeting. The cost is \$50 plus tax and shipping. I urge you to make plans to attend the joint meeting this will be an excellent opportunity to network with many forage specialists across the country.

I'll look forward to seeing you at our next forage event and bring a friend!

## IFGC Address Change

The IFGC has changed its mailing address. Please send all future correspondence, including membership dues, to the following address:

IFGC  
PO Box 233  
Greenville, IL 62246

## Amended Ruling on Roundup Ready Alfalfa

by Dr. Mark Renz, University of Wisconsin-Madison Extension Weed Scientist (*reprinted from the July 6, 2007 issue, Wisconsin Crop Manager*)

The judge has amended several regulations from his final ruling on May 3, 2007. While the amendments do not change the restrictions on planting Roundup Ready Alfalfa, they clarify some restrictions to the harvesting of Roundup Ready alfalfa already planted before the injunction and cleaning of equipment. The amended rules are the following:

- The court will not require Roundup Ready hay to be stored in containers that are specifically labeled as long as the alfalfa remains on the farm of origin, but will still require that Roundup Ready alfalfa be properly labeled if it leaves the farm where it was grown.
- The initial ruling was to require farmers to submit protocols for cleaning equipment used to harvest Roundup Ready alfalfa. Due to the fact that the initial guidelines were written for planting alfalfa seed and not hay, APHIS convinced the judge to amend his decision and instead allow APHIS to disseminate a best practices guide on managing hay and seed to prevent contamination of the Roundup Ready gene. APHIS will mail these guides to Roundup Ready alfalfa growers by 7/13/07 in lieu of requiring the government's prior approval of each farmer's specific cleaning procedures.
- The judge extended the deadline for Monsanto and Forage Genetics to provide locations of Roundup Ready alfalfa fields

as they are having difficulty in locating some fields, particularly in the Eastern United States.

- The last potential amendment to the ruling involves the public disclosure of the location of all Roundup Ready alfalfa seed and hay fields. Currently, involved parties are negotiating on exactly how this will occur. The judge emphasized that the process must be conducted by the government and provide specifics to
  - \* How farmers make inquiries
  - \* What information the farmers have to provide
  - \* What precise information the government disclose in return
  - \* How quickly will the government provide the response

### American Forage and Grassland Council Society for Range Management 2008 Joint Annual Conference

January 26-31, 2008

Galt House, Louisville, KY

Details for the joint 2008 conference, with the theme Grasslands to Rangelands is available

### Handbook of Forage and Rangeland Insects

This excellent reference was recently published by the Entomological Society of America. The handbook includes more than 250 color photographs of injurious and beneficial forage and rangeland insects. The handbook provides growers practical field strategies to reduce insect damage and the latest protection techniques.

For more information or to order a copy contact APS, [www.shopapspress.org](http://www.shopapspress.org) or call 1-800-328-7560.

**Illinois Forage & Grassland Council**  
**P.O. Box 233**  
**Greenville, IL 62246**

**IFGC**

Phone: (618) 664-3590 ext 3  
 Fax: (618) 664-3958

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**Editor:**

Dale Baird,  
 University of Illinois Extension  
 417 Ware Avenue, Suite 102  
 Rockford, IL 61107-6412  
 dlbaird@uiuc.edu  
 (815) 397-7714

Contributions for future *Forage Feed* issues or requests to receive future issues electronically can be emailed or mailed to the editor.



The mission of the Illinois Forage and Grassland Council is to provide the framework that unites industry, producers, and educational/governmental institutions for the production, marketing, and wise use of forages and grasslands.

## 2007 IFGC Officers and Board

### 2007 IFGC Officers

President (Industry)	<b>Ron Atherton</b> Office (800) 435-9560 Ron. Atherton@agriking.com
Vice President (Producer)	<b>Don Brown Jr.</b> (815) 865-5471 donbrownjr@yahoo.com
Co-Secretary/ Treasurer (Edu/Gov)	<b>Jerry Millburg</b> Office (888) 458-4787 Jerry.Millburg@usda.gov  <b>Roger Staff</b> (618) 664-3590, ext 3 Roger.Staff@il.usdas.gov
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Check out IFGC's web site at  
[www.illinoisforage.org](http://www.illinoisforage.org)