

# Forage Feed

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### IFGC Annual Meeting

The Illinois Forage and Grassland Council held their Annual Meeting the evening of February 27 at Yoder's Kitchen, Arthur, IL. Ron Atherton, IFGC president, called the meeting to order. IFGC officers for 2007 are Ron Atherton, Thomson, IL, president; Don Brown, Jr., Davis, IL, vice-president; Roger Staff, Greenville, IL and Jerry Millburg, Litchfield, IL, co-secretaries/treasurers.

Business items discussed included: plans for the 2007 Illinois Forage Expo; Roger Staff was appointed co-secretary/treasurer to fill the vacancy of Joy Dierkes's term and an IFGC financial report was presented.

Jim Morrison, IFGC Awards committee chair, announced Ron Tombaugh, Streator, IL will receive the IFGC Outstanding Producer Award and Cliff Schuette will receive the Outstanding Industry Award.



Cliff Schuette (right) receives the **IFGC Outstanding Industry Award** presented by Roger Staff, IFGC board member

IFGC Board Members for 2007 are as follows:

**Producer representatives:** Jim Burrus, Jacksonville, IL; Beau Byington, Plano, IL; David Schaefer, Beecher City, IL; Zane Schnieder, Trenton, IL.

**Education/Government representatives:** Dale Baird, Rockford, IL; Matt Bunger, Bloomington, IL; Frank Ireland, Simpson, IL; Jim Morrison, Rockford, IL.

**Industry representatives:** Brad Halbrook, Shelbyville, IL; Scott Jones, Industry, IL; Kevin Schwarz, Carlyle, IL.

### Important Dates

- June 23-26 AFGC Annual Meeting State College, Pennsylvania
- August 1-2 Upper Midwest Grazing Conference, Best Western Midway Hotel, 3100 Dodge Street, Dubuque, IA



Ron Tombaugh (right) receives the **IFGC Outstanding Producer Award** from Jim Morrison, IFGC Director

## IFGC at Illinois Beef Expo

IFGC staffed a membership and informational display booth at the Illinois Beef Expo which was held February 22-25 at the State Fairgrounds, Springfield, IL.

IFGC board members visited with numerous beef producers about the mission and educational programs supported by the Illinois Forage and Grassland Council.

Booth visitors had the opportunity to submit their name for a raffle drawing for a complimentary 2007 IFGC membership. Winners selected were: Jim Girard, Pontiac, IL; Mark Snyder, Vandalia, IL and Trevor Huffman, Jacksonville, IL.



David Schaefer, IFGC board member visits with A-C Central FFA members from the Ashland, IL area at the Illinois Beef Expo.

## AFGC Annual Meeting June 23-26 at Penn State

The American Forage & Grassland Council's Annual Meeting will be held on June 23-26 at Penn State Conference Center and Hotel.

The keynote address at Monday's general session will be *Bio-fuels: Agriculture's Ticket to the Head of the Table*, as presented by Tom Richards, Director of the Biomass Energy Center at Penn State. Monday afternoon will be filled with your choice of four tours focusing on forage crops, grazing, grain crops, and an industry tour. See the AFGC website for details.

Tuesday's producer programs will begin with a keynote address by Neal Martin, Director of USDA Dairy Forage Research Center in Madison WI entitled, *These Aren't Your Father's Forages*. Other programs include, *Can You Use Carbon Credits to Boost Your Farm Income?* and *What's Up With Organic Agriculture?* presented by Erin James, Director of Pennsylvania Certified Organics.

Companion tours on Monday and Tuesday will include stops in the Amish country and various historic sites in the area.

The event is co-sponsored by the Pennsylvania Forage & Grassland Council, and Penn State University. For more information call the AFGC Office 800-944-2342 or go to the AFGC website: [www.AFGC.org](http://www.AFGC.org) and follow the conference links.

### Dues Reminder –

IFGC Dues for 2007 are now due. Annual dues are \$25, which includes membership in AFGC, quarterly newsletter from IFGC, and an AFGC newsletter from AFGC. Corporate dues are \$200 annually.

The membership year runs from January 1 to December 31. Individual and Corporate IFGC membership application is included on the following page.

Thank you for your support!

## 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



## Membership Application: Illinois Forage and Grassland Council

**2007 INDIVIDUAL IFGC Membership Application**

(January 1, 2007 – December 31, 2007)

**Make check payable to Illinois Forage and Grassland Council**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

*IFGC respects the privacy of its members, and does not sell its email address list to solicitors. IFGC and AFGC will email newsletters and other information to members routinely, as a cost-saving measure over regular mail. Thank you.*

Membership category (check one): Farmer \_\_\_\_\_ University/Government \_\_\_\_\_ Industry \_\_\_\_\_

If Industry (check one): Machinery \_\_\_\_\_ Seed \_\_\_\_\_ Chem. & Fert. \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Check if member of IFGC affiliate ILL forage and grassland council: Northwestern IFGC \_\_\_\_\_ Western IFGC \_\_\_\_\_

Individual membership dues are **\$25.00** which includes membership to: 1) **Illinois Forage and Grassland Council** and 2) **American Forage and Grassland Council**. Membership is open to all persons interested in production and utilization of hay and pasture crops, soil and natural resources conservation, and livestock production. All members receive *Forage Feed*, the IFGC quarterly newsletter

**Please mail to: Illinois Forage and Grassland Council**

**P.O. Box 233**

**Greenville, Illinois 62246**

**Ph: 618-664-3590 ext. 3**

**Fax: 618-664-3958**

**2007 CORPORATE IFGC Membership Application**

(January 1, 2007 – December 31, 2007)

**Make check payable to Illinois Forage and Grassland Council**

Name of Business \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Business Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone(\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

*IFGC respects the privacy of its members, and does not sell its email address list to solicitors. IFGC and AFGC will email newsletters and other information to members routinely, as a cost-saving measure over regular mail. Thank you.*

Membership category (check one): Farmer \_\_\_\_\_ University/Government \_\_\_\_\_ Industry \_\_\_\_\_

If Industry (check one): Machinery \_\_\_\_\_ Seed \_\_\_\_\_ Chem. & Fert. \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Check if member of IFGC affiliate ILL forage and grassland council: Northwestern IFGC \_\_\_\_\_ Western IFGC \_\_\_\_\_

Corporate membership dues are \$200.00 which includes membership to: 1) **Illinois Forage and Grassland Council** and 2) **American Forage and Grassland Council**. All members receive *Forage Feed*, the IFGC quarterly newsletter. Also, corporate members receive complimentary standard exhibit space at two IFGC sponsored events per year and are recognized in the *Forage Feed* newsletter.

## Alfalfa Watch: Project Aids Alfalfa Growers in Timing Harvest

by Jim Morrison, Crop Systems extension educator

Alfalfa producers and dealers in the northern half of Illinois can benefit now from the **Alfalfa Watch** project. The project monitors plant development and quality and helps time the first cutting. Alfalfa plant growth and nutrient quality indicators are reported twice weekly at this website <http://peaq.traill.uiuc.edu/>. Due to cold weather damage to alfalfa, the project is not being conducted in the southern third of Illinois. (See later comments regarding impact of cold temperatures on **PEAQ**).

The Alfalfa Watch project estimates the preharvest quality in the field using the **Predictive Equations of Alfalfa Quality (PEAQ)** technique. **PEAQ** consists of predicting fiber and relative feed value (RFV) based upon the height of the tallest stem and stage of plant maturity within a sampling area. The method, developed by University of Wisconsin, has been used in Illinois for many years and it's a reliable guide to determine the optimum harvest date for first cutting.

At the web site, you can calculate **PEAQ**, enter and track your own **PEAQ** values, and view **PEAQ** values by county and region in Illinois. Since approximately 15 RFV units are lost during harvest, alfalfa needs to be cut at 165 to 170 RFV using **PEAQ** to have 150 RFV of harvested forage.

A change of 3 to 5 points of RFV per day in the standing forage has been noted, so adjustments need to be made for total harvesting time. This adjustment means that alfalfa may have to be harvested prior to 165 to 170 RFV as indicated by **PEAQ**.

This year, cutting based on **PEAQ** may need to be modified reflecting plant damage from the cold temperatures the first week in April. The general recommendation is to allow injured alfalfa to mature longer before cutting. This will help buildup carbohydrates for subsequent

production. If the stand was severely injured, first cutting should be delayed till bloom stage. With limited injury, allow the alfalfa to be perhaps 10 percent bloom, at the second or third cutting. **PEAQ** is not designed to balance rations and it does not account for quality changes due to wilting, harvesting, and storage. The procedure is most accurate for good, healthy stands of pure alfalfa.

Many alfalfa seed companies have **PEAQ** measuring sticks that indicate the RFV of standing alfalfa based on the height and stage of maturity.

Lastly, producers need to balance the **PEAQ** technique with short-term weather forecasts.

### Winter Survival, Fall Dormancy & Pest Resistance Ratings for Alfalfa Varieties

When selecting alfalfa varieties for future seedings, growers are encouraged to review the **Winter Survival, Fall Dormancy & Pest Resistance Ratings for Alfalfa Varieties, 2006-07 Edition**. The publication is developed by the National Alfalfa & Forage Alliance. The information is available free on-line at <http://www.alfalfa.org/falldormancy.html>

#### Contact Information for AFGC

American Forage & Grassland Council  
350 Poplar Avenue  
Elmhurst, IL 60126

Toll-Free: 800.944.AFGC (2342)  
Fax: 603.359.4274  
E-mail: [info@afgc.org](mailto:info@afgc.org)



## University of Illinois Department of Crop Sciences Research & Demonstration Center Field Days

**June 14, 2007:** University of Illinois Extension Ewing Field Day, 9:00 am

**June 27, 2007:** Weed Science Field Day, tour begins at 8:30 am, Crop Sciences Research & Education Center, Urbana, IL

**July 17, 2007:** University of Illinois Northern Illinois Agronomy Research Center Field Day, 4:00 pm, Shabbona, IL

**July 26, 2007:** University of Illinois Brownstown Agronomy Research Center Field Day, 9:00 am, Brownstown, IL

**August 2, 2007:** University of Illinois Dixon Springs Agricultural Center Field Day, 8:00 am, Simpson, IL

**August 16, 2007:** University of Illinois Agronomy Field Day, 7:00 am, Crop Sciences Research & Education Center Urbana, IL

**August 20, 2007:** University of Illinois Orr Agricultural Research & Demonstration Center Field Day, 4:00 pm, Perry, IL

**August 21, 2007:** University of Illinois Northwestern Illinois Agricultural Research & Demonstration Center Field Day, 8:00 am, Monmouth, IL

**September 6, 2007:** University of Illinois Extension Ewing Field Day, 9:00 am

## Regional/State/National Forage Programs Calendar

**June 12, 2007: Horse Pasture Walk**, 9:30 am–noon, Amboy, IL, Lee County, contact Lee County Extension Unit Office, lee\_co@extension.uiuc.edu, (815) 857-3525

**June 14, 2007: Western Illinois Grazing Conference**, Western Illinois University Livestock Center, Macomb, IL, for further information contact Ken Nimrick, WIU, (309) 298-1288

**June 20-21, 2007: Farm Progress Hay Expo 2007**, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm each day, Westgate Iowa, <http://www.hayexpo.com>

**June 23-26: American Forage and Grassland Council Annual Meeting**, State College, PA, [www.afgc.org](http://www.afgc.org)

**July 21, 2007: Grazer's Pasture Walk**, 9:00 am–noon, Norman Paquette's Farm 1723 E 3400N Road, St. Anne, IL, pre-registration requested by July 19 and can be made by contacting the Kankakee County Extension Unit, (815) 933-8337, kankakee\_co@extension.uiuc.edu

**July 25, 2007: Kankakee County Grazing Mechanics**, 10:00 am – 12:30 pm, Dave Surprenant Farm, 5898 E 7000N Road, Manteno, IL, pre-registration requested by July 20 and can be made by contacting the Kankakee County Extension Unit, (815) 933-8337, kankakee\_co@extension.uiuc.edu

**August 1-2, 2007: Upper Midwest Grazing Conference**, Best Western Midway Motel, 3100 Dodge Street, Dubuque, IA, for program details contact Jim Morrison, University of Illinois Extension, Rockford Center, (815) 397-7714, morrison@uiuc.edu, <http://www.cias.wisc.edu/uppermidwest/>

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

**IFGC**

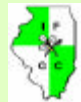
Phone: (618) 664-3590 ext 3  
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**Forage Feed** is published by the Illinois Forage and Grassland Council

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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
Past President (Edu/Gov)	<b>Dean Oswald</b> Office (309) 836-2265 oswaldd@uiuc.edu

### *Board of Directors*

### *Terms*

Producers	<b>Beau Byington</b> (630) 364-6568 <b>Jim Burrus</b> (217) 886-2552 <b>David Schaefer</b> (618) 487-5565 <b>Zane Schneider</b> (618) 644-3621	2006— Feb 2009 2007— Feb 2010 2007— Feb 2010 2006— Feb 2008
Edu/Gov	<b>Matt Bunger</b> (309) 452-0830 <b>Frank Ireland</b> (618) 695-2442 <b>Jim Morrison</b> (815) 397-7714 <b>Dale Baird</b> (815) 397-7714	2006— Feb 2009 2007— Feb 2010 2004— Feb 2008 2006 — Feb 2009
Industry	<b>Brad Halbrook</b> (217) 774-4794 <b>Kevin Schwarz</b> (618) 594-646 <b>Scott Jones</b> (309) 254-3556	2007— Feb 2010 2006— Feb 2008 2005— Feb 2008

Check out IFGC's web site at  
[www.illinoisforage.org](http://www.illinoisforage.org)