



# Forage Feed

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## Important Dates:

- Conference on Grazing Lands, St. Louis MO December 10-13
- Heart of America Grazing Conference January 24-25
- Hay and Straw Auctions Orangeville IL 2nd & 4th Saturdays November—April
- Forage Institute February 2007

## Wet Conditions Could Not Deter Forage Expo

A rain-out – in August? What are the odds? But it happened.

Over 4 inches of rain fell near South Beloit, Illinois, within 24 hours of the Forage Expo. The field conditions were far from perfect, but the Forage Expo went on as planned. Exhibitors braved wet, muddy conditions to display their products.

Hay work was limited, due to wet conditions. As shown below, mowing demonstrations were held in the afternoon. Baling demonstrations were cancelled.

Gerald Jaeger, custom dairy heifer producer from Campellsport, WI, spoke about raising dairy re-

# 2006 Illinois Forage Expo

placements on pasture.

University of Wisconsin Extension Engineer, Dr. Brian Holmes, presented information about stored feed options. U of I Extension Engineer Dr. Ted Funk spoke about manure management plans. Extension Educators Dave Feltes and Jim Morrison gave updated information about alfalfa pest and nutrients.



## 2006 Corporate Members of IFGC “Forage Feed” Delivered Electronically

**Agri-King Nutrition, Inc., Fulton, IL**  
**Alpha Ag, Pleasant Plains, IL**  
**Ampac Seed, Winona Lake, IN**  
**Barenbrug USA, Vinton, IA**  
**Bergmann Farm Supply, Carthage, IL**  
**Byron Seeds, Dongola, IL**  
**Dairyland Laboratories, Arcadia, WI**  
**Dairyland Seed, West Bend, WI**  
**Dow AgroSciences, Graham, MO**  
**GFC/Bale Band-It, Pittsfield, IL**  
**Hoffman Seed House, Hoffman, IL**  
**JDL Sales, Pittsfield, IL**  
**Merial, Heyworth, IL**  
**Midwest Forage & Grass, Industry, IL**  
**Midwest Laboratories, Inc., Omaha, NE**  
**MIX30/AgriDyne, Springfield, IL**  
**Modern Livestock Systems, Inc.,  
Shelbyville, IL**  
**Olds Seed Solutions, Madison, WI**  
**Pennington Seed, Madison, GA**  
**Pirok's Big Bale Feeder, Highland, IL**

Illinois Forage and Grassland Council is grateful for the corporate sponsorship and partnerships with Illinois Beef Association, Illinois Grassland Conservation Initiative, Illinois Department of Agriculture, USDA/NRCS and University of Illinois Extension. Their contributions make IFGC's programs possible.

### Welcome New Corporate Sponsors!

***Dairyland Laboratories***

*Arcadia, WI*

***Dairyland Seed***

*West Bend, WI*

Beginning with this edition, the Forage Feed will be delivered electronically to as many members as possible. For those members who do not have email and/or internet access, a paper version will be mailed.

An email message will go out to all members, using a blind mailing. Your email address will remain as secure as possible. The “Forage Feed” will be posted on the IFGC website. A link will be provided in the email message, to guide readers to the IFGC website. Readers will need to have Adobe Acrobat Reader to view the newsletter.

This electronic delivery system will reduce mailing costs, and provide a newsletter with a clearer, more professional appearance.

If you have any concerns, please contact a current board member or Co-Secretary Joy Dierkes, as listed on the last page of this newsletter.

### IFGC Needs YOU!

The next election of officers and board members will be held at the Illinois Forage and Grassland Council's annual meeting, which will be held in February 2007.

Positions to be decided will be the vice-president and four board member positions. Board member duties include planning the Forage Expo, Forage Institute, and other workshops, and generally promote forage use and production in Illinois.

If you are interested in being a part of the IFGC Board of Directors, please contact a current board member, as listed on page 6 of this newsletter.

## 2006 Forage Expo, continued



Transportation to field demonstrations provided by Boone County Wagon Team.

**Thank you to the  
Hildebrandt Families  
for their  
hospitality and cooperation  
in hosting the  
2006 Illinois Forage Expo**

Hildebrandt Farms hosted this year's event. This family operation consists of a 350 Holstein dairy confinement operation, which utilizes about 300 acres of alfalfa.

**Quality Hay Contest Results:**

Hay quality contest was conducted on 17 hay samples in three categories—grass, alfalfa, and grass-alfalfa mix. Hay was rated according to density, and nutritional value. The top three hay producers in each category are listed, below.

**Alfalfa Hay**

- Keith Drakes, Carthage IL
- Katie Bragg, Sheridan IL
- Udder Confusion Dairy, Durand IL

**Grass Hay**

- Kyle Newman, Rockford IL
- Don Brown Jr., Davis IL
- Katie Bragg, Sheri-

dan IL

**Alfalfa-Grass Mix**

- Brian Lamb, South Beloit IL
- Don Brown Jr., Davis IL
- Brent Mueller, Green Prairie IL



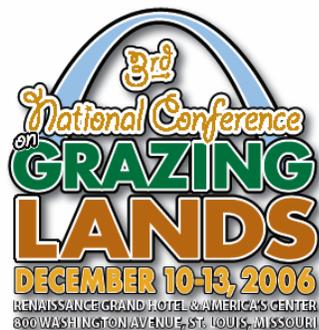
Exhibitors and attendees discuss the latest products in forage production (above). Forage equipment is displayed (below).



### Third National Conference on Grazing Lands to be Held in St. Louis December 10-13

The Third National Conference on Grazing Lands will be held in St. Louis December 10-13. The event is co-hosted by the Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI) and the Society for Range Management (SRM).

There will be presentations about grazing management from a variety of sources, including farmers, ranchers, and representatives of universities and agricultural agencies.



For more information about the conference, including registration information,

visit GLCI's website at [www.glci.org](http://www.glci.org), and click on the "Grazing Conference" link.

### Heart of America Grazing Conference in Mt. Vernon January 24-25

The Heart of America Grazing Conference will be held at the Holiday Inn, Mt. Vernon, Illinois on January 24-25.

This conference will feature programs and break-out sessions on forage and grazing topics. Sessions will include tall fescue, grazing as part of a crop rotation, fence and water solutions, and pasture establishment. A producer panel will also discuss grazing decisions and problems.

The program is sponsored by forage organizations and the Extension service throughout Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, and Missouri; and USDA/NRCS.

For more information about the conference, including registration information, contact Justin Sexten at 618-242-9310; or register on-line at <http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/HOAGC>.

### Now Accepting Forage Awards Nominations

Illinois Forage and Grassland Council is once again taking nominations for three award categories—**Outstanding Producer, Outstanding Education/Government, and Outstanding Industry Awards**. Awards will be presented at the IFGC Annual Meeting in late February.

Nomination information is briefly listed below. More information is available at the IFGC website at [www.illinoisforage.org](http://www.illinoisforage.org); or watch the January newsletter for more information.

Briefly describe why the individual deserves the specific award. This could include:

- a description of the forage operation including comments on management practices, innovations, etc.
- a description of significant contributions/accomplishments in forage agriculture
- a description of major involvement in forage agriculture on a local, state, or national level

Please send application by 1/19/07 to:

Jim Morrison, Rockford Extension Center  
 417 Ware Ave., Suite 102  
 Rockford, IL 61107-6412  
 Phone: 815-397-7714; fax 815-397-8620  
 Email [Morrison@uiuc.edu](mailto:Morrison@uiuc.edu)

## Hay-Straw Auctions Set For Fall and Winter

*Prepared by Jim Morrison  
Extension Educator, Crop Systems  
Rockford Extension Center, University of Illinois*

The Northwestern Illinois Forage and Grassland Council will host their hay and straw auctions at the Orangeville Boco MiniMart parking lot, Route 26, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday's beginning at 11 am. The first auction is November 11 and the last is April 28.

Consignments should arrive by 10:30 am. It is encouraged, but not required, that hay lots have a certified scale ticket on the day of the auction. This will allow hay to be sold by the ton, rather than by the bale. Straw is typically sold by the bale.

Quality tested hay is encouraged, and a copy of the analysis indicating at least the crude protein, fiber (acid detergent fiber and/or neutral detergent fiber) and relative feed value (RFV) be brought with the consignment. Hay analysis will not be provided on site. A list of forage testing laboratories is available at Extension offices.

There will be no consignment fee for members of the Northwestern Illinois Forage and Grassland Council. Non-members will be charged \$10.00 and this will be collected prior to the auction. B & M Hay Auctions will retain a 6% commission fee from the sale proceeds and 3% for no-sale lots. Sellers can outline their delivery terms as in the past. A skid loader will be available for reloading hay and straw at the sale site.

Dues (\$30.00) to the organization for the January through December year can be paid at the auctions.

Questions about the auctions can be directed to B & M Hay Auctions (608-938-4822), Don Brown, Jr. (815-238-8372), or the Stephenson County Extension Office (815-235-4125).

## AFGC Hires New Executive Secretary

AFGC is excited to announce the hiring of Bandy & Associates as its new executive secretary. Michael and Dee Dee Bandy, managing partners of Bandy & Associates, bring over forty years of experience in association management to AFGC. They have great visions for AFGC and bring many unique and innovative ideas to our organization.

As of October 1<sup>st</sup>, Bandy & Associates began this transition. They will organize communications between members, affiliates and the executive board of directors. They will implement a comprehensive plan to lead AFGC in our quest to be a major voice in forage agriculture.

Join the Board of Directors as Bandy and Associates is welcomed to the AFGC team. Feel free to contact the organization at the following address: *AFGC, 350 Poplar Ave, Elmhurst, IL 60126*. Their phone number is Toll Free: 800.944.AFGC (2342) or 630.941.3240. They can also be reached through email at: [info@afgc.org](mailto:info@afgc.org)

### **Dues Reminder —**

IFGC Dues for 2007 will be due soon. Annual dues are \$25, which includes membership in AFGC, quarterly newsletter from IFGC, and a newsletter from AFGC as well.

The membership year runs from January 1 to December 31. Contact Joy at the address, phone number, and/or email address shown on page 10; or see the website for an application ([www.illinoisforage.org](http://www.illinoisforage.org)).

Thank you for your support!

## AFGC Update

Roger Staff, AFGC Board Member

At the AFGC fall board meeting many decisions were made to sustain and advance the forage movement at both the affiliate and national levels. One of the more noticeable items will be the Forage Leader will now be distributed on the web, only. This is done to both be more fiscally responsible and improve the availability to a wider audience. At this point I would suggest that all members submit their email addresses to Joy so that you can keep current with all of the AFGC activities and happenings. If you don't have internet service you should probably let Joy know as well, to try to set up a different point of contact.

The AFGC board reviewed and adopted a business plan to aid in guiding the board into the future. I feel there is a new awareness among the board members that took on responsibilities during the transition to our new Ex. Sec. (Bandy and Assoc., Michael and Dee Dee). The daily task of managing the AFGC activities presented some learning experiences for many board members and I for one have a new respect for how hard it is to keep all of the bases covered all of the time. Bandy and Associates seem eager to take on the tasks of daily management for the AFGC and will be very busy for the next several months getting all of our files shifted over. This will be done along with a new look to the web page and many files will be added to the website for future reference for our members and affiliates. The 800 number will be the same, 800-944-AFGC, (2342) and website as well.

Miles Kuhn was elected as the new vice president for AFGC. Miles has been serving as the Affiliate Council Liaison on the board for some time. Other election info, Ron Atherton's name is placed on the ballot from Illinois. Ron is running under the industry sector and, if elected, will serve a three year term which starts in June of

2007. Watch for your AFGC ballots to be in the mail before the end of the calendar year.

The Certified Grassland Professional's grandfathering period has been extended till June 30<sup>th</sup>, of 2007. This was done to allow applicants to be able to apply since AFGC has been doing without a daily contact since March. This will be the last extension on this application process and after June 30<sup>th</sup> 2007 all applicants will have to take and pass the test!

Sustaining Member category: anyone donating \$100 to AFGC becomes a sustaining member and gets recognized with their name placed on the list on AFGC's Web site. You will be helping advance forages as well as having a tax deductible donation!

Have you told a friend about IFGC and AFGC this week? If we all recruit one new member this year we'll double our rolls. Have a safe harvest and Happy Holiday season!

### Contact Information for AFGC

**Mailing Address:**

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



Toll-Free:  
800.944.AFGC (2342)  
Telephone: 630.941.3240  
Fax: 603.359.4274  
E-mail: [info@afgc.org](mailto:info@afgc.org)  
Web: [www.afgc.org](http://www.afgc.org)

**Staff Members:**

Michael J. Bandy, Associate Director  
Dee Dee Bandy, Associate Director

## Successful Grazing Schools Held Throughout Illinois

Submitted by

Matt Bunger and Roger Staff, NRCS Grazing Specialists

This summer there were a series of eight Grazing Schools held across the state. The attendance ranged from 14 to 56 producers at the schools. The largest school was held at Dixon Springs Ag Center (DSAC) with producers from both Illinois and Kentucky attending. The many producers across the state were able to benefit from the information provided at the schools. This will enable the producers with managed grazing systems to apply a more balanced fertility and forage management program on their pastures.



Cliff Schuette, ILGLCI Chairman, speaks at Grazing School class held at Dixon Springs Ag Center in September

Other topics included were system layout and design, management of summer annuals, perennial warm season grasses and the stockpiling process for forages.

The goals of the federal cost share program EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program) were also discussed. Congress

supports the cost share programs to aid producers in protecting and enhancing their natural resources: soil, water, air, plants and animals.

The schools were organized to aid in producer education and grazing management, as well as to meet the ranking criteria for EQIP participants. The presenters from NRCS and U of I Extension will be using the evaluations and questionnaires that were completed to craft the grazing schools for next year.

Two featured guest speakers attended the grazing schools. The first was Reggie Blackwell,

Regional Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative, GLCI, coordinator from Fort Worth, Texas, who spoke at the school in Lincoln. Cliff Schutte, Chairman of the Illinois Grassland Conservation Initiative (ILGLCI), was featured at Dixon Springs Ag Center and Salem locations. Cliff spoke to the groups about the efforts the ILGLCI is doing in supporting the livestock industry and securing federal cost share dollars through programs such as EQIP and other programs to benefit the livestock industry.

Grazing Schools were held at Charleston, Galesburg, Mt. Sterling, Salem, Dixon Springs Ag Center (near Simpson), Carrollton, Lincoln, and Kankakee. Grazing Schools are being planned for next year. Watch local newspapers and U of I Extension newsletters for future dates and locations. Grazing School workshops were sponsored by Illinois Forage and Grassland Council, Illinois Grassland Conservation Initiative, University of Illinois Extension, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and USDA Risk Management Agency.

### Risk Management Mini-Grants Taking Applications

IFGC has once again partnered with 13 other agencies in Illinois to write a Risk Management Agency grant entitled: *Mitigating Risks on Illinois Livestock and Grain Farms*.

IFGC's portion of the funds amount to \$13,000 for educational programs in the area of reducing risks in forage production and managed grazing systems.

IFGC plans to work with a diverse set of partners committed to risk management education that will include risk topics in existing meetings. Programs that involve educating producers on forage risks, management or marketing may qualify for IFGC funding. Please feel free to apply for funding of your 2007 meeting. Send your grant request by 9:00 AM December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2006 to Dean Oswald [oswald@uiuc.edu](mailto:oswald@uiuc.edu)

## Illinois Forage and Grassland Council



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Contributions for publication should be mailed to the above address.

## Feed Delivered Electronically

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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.

## 2006 IFGC Officers and Board

### 2006 IFGC Officers

President (Industry)	<b>Ron Atherton</b> Work Phone (800) 435-9560
Vice President (Prod)	<b>Don Brown Jr.</b> Work Phone (815) 865 5471
Co-Secretary/ Treasurer (Gov)	<b>Joy Dierkes</b> joy.dierkes@il.nacdnet.net Work Phone (618) 664-0555
Co-Secretary/ Treasurer (Gov)	<b>Jerry Millburg</b> Jerry.Millburg@usda.gov Work Phone (888) 458 4787
Past President (Education)	<b>Dean Oswald</b> Work Phone (309) 836 2265

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

### Board of Directors

<u>Producers</u>	<b>Beau Byington</b> (630) 364-6568	06-09
	<b>Jim Burrus</b> (217) 245 7548	04-07
	<b>David Schaefer</b> (618) 487-5565	04-07
	<b>Zane Schneider</b> (618) 644-3621	06-08
<u>Edu/Gov</u>	<b>Matt Bunger</b> (309) 452-0830	06-09
	<b>Frank Ireland</b> (618) 695-2442	06-07
	<b>Jim Morrison</b> (815)-397-7714	04-08
	<b>Roger Staff</b> (217) 621-4789	06-09
<u>Industry</u>	<b>Ryan Bergman</b> (217) 357 2714	06-07
	<b>Kevin Schwarz</b> (618) 594 7646	06-08
	<b>Scott Jones</b> (309) 254-3556	05-08