



Summer 2006

Issue #89

# Forage Feed

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### Important Dates:

- Forage Expo  
Hildebrandt Farm  
South Beloit, IL  
August 25, 2006.
- Grazing Schools  
August through  
September, 2006
- Pasture Walk  
Snow Dairy Farm  
Mulberry Grove IL  
September 21

## Illinois Forage Expo to be Held August 25 in Boone County, Illinois

The 2006 Illinois Forage Expo will be held on Friday, August 25, 2006 at Hildebrandt Farms, 2475 State Line Road, South Beloit, Illinois in Boone County. The Hildebrandt operation consists of a 350 Holstein dairy confinement operation which utilizes about 300 acres of alfalfa.

The Forage Expo will include field demonstrations of forage harvesting equipment and commercial displays of forage related products and equipment. In addition educational sessions will be presented that focus on alfalfa management, stored feed options, cow health issues, raising dairy replacements on grass and manure management plans. The Expo will start at 9 am and conclude at 4 pm. The Hildebrandt Farm is located about 8 miles east of South Beloit Illinois on State Line Road or from Belvidere, Illinois the site can be reached by going north on Route 76 about 16 miles to State Line Road, then west 1 ½ miles.

# 2006 Illinois Forage Expo

Further information about the Illinois Forage Expo activities, time schedule and directions to the site can be found at [www.illinoisforage.org](http://www.illinoisforage.org) or by contacting Illinois Forage & Grassland Council at 618-664-0555, ext 3. Individuals interested in exhibiting a commercial display should contact Ron Atherton, president, Illinois Forage & Grassland Council at 815-589-2525 or email at [Ron.Atherton@agriking.com](mailto:Ron.Atherton@agriking.com)

The Forage Expo is co-sponsored by University of Illinois Extension, Illinois Forage and Grassland Council, Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA Risk Management Agency and Illinois Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative.

## 2006 Corporate Members of IFGC

**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**  
**JDL Sales, Pittsfield, IL**  
**Merial, Heyworth, 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 Sponsor!

*Dairyland Seeds, Inc.*  
*West Bend, Wisconsin*

## AFGC Summer Update

*By Roger Staff, AFGC Board Member*

AFGC will join with six other forage organizations in early August and meet with the Ag Appropriations Committee to introduce themselves and inform the committee that forages are the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest crop grown in the United States. In retrospect, the livestock industry (beef, dairy, sheep, goats and horse industries) as well as wild-life industry depend on the forages grown in this country to survive and prosper.

The selection of a new Executive Secretary continues. There were 13 letters of intent submitted and 12 applications actually submitted. From these twelve, the committee has narrowed the group to five. These applications will be reviewed and scrutinized further.

Don't forget to apply for the Certified Grassland Professional: [www.afgc.org](http://www.afgc.org). The grandfather clause will end on December 31, 2006.

This certification indicates the person possesses the professional credentials indicating can plan critical conservation practices and implement sound resource management of pasture, hayland, and grazed cropland. Certification is for a period of two years from the date the applicant is informed of successful initial certification. The application and other information can be found on the AFGC website, [www.afgc.org](http://www.afgc.org).

Have you signed up a new forage council member this month?

# Illinois Forage Expo

Friday, August 25, 2006

9 am to 4 pm



Hildebrandt Farms, 2475 State Line Road, South Beloit, IL  
350 head Holstein confinement operation, 300 acres of alfalfa

Directions: about 6 miles east of the I-39/I-90 South Beloit exit with the Expo site on State Line Road or from Belvidere go north about 16 miles on Route 76, then west 1 1/2 miles on State Line Road. Watch for Forage Expo signs.

For detailed Expo activities, agenda and directions visit [www.illinoisforage.org](http://www.illinoisforage.org)

## Equipment Field Demonstrations

- 10 am — mowing
- 11 am — raking, tedding
- 2 pm — baling, chopping

## Commercial Forage Industry & Equipment Exhibits

## Quality Hay Contest

- Producers may enter one 2006 harvested bale per class and entries are due by 11 am
- Bales weighing over 100 pounds need an official scale weigh ticket
- Four hay classes: alfalfa—grass—alfalfa/grass mix—other
- Awards presented to class winners

## Educational Presentations:

- 10:00 am Stored Feed Options
- 10:30 am Manure Management Plans
- 11:00 am Alfalfa Pest and Nutrient Update
- 11:30 am Raising Dairy Replacements on Grass
- 1:30 pm Update on Cow Health Issues

## For Educational Presentation Locations, Check at Registration Desk

Tour of Hildebrandt Dairy Facility  
11:30 am and 1:30 pm

**No Admission Charge — Food Available On Site**

For further information contact Illinois Forage & Grassland Council at 618-664-0555, Ext. 3. Interested in displaying a commercial exhibit contact Ron Atherton, IFGC president, at 815-589-2525 or email at [ron.atherton@agriling.com](mailto:ron.atherton@agriling.com)

## Co-Sponsors:



Illinois  
Forage &  
Grassland  
Council

**ILGLCI**  
Illinois Grazing Land  
Conservation Initiative



## Forage Expo Education Sessions

Below are the educational sessions scheduled for the 2006 Forage Expo. See the flyer on the previous page for location and other details. If you have any questions, please check out the website at [www.illinoisforage.org](http://www.illinoisforage.org)

- 10:00 am**    **Stored Feed Options – Developing a Feed Center**  
Dr. Brian Holmes, Extension Engineer  
University of Wisconsin-Madison
- 10:30 am**    **Manure Management Plans**  
Dr. Ted Funk, Extension Engineer  
University of Illinois
- 11:00 am**    **Alfalfa Pest and Nutrient Update**  
Dave Feltes and Jim Morrison, Extension Educators  
University of Illinois
- 11:30 am**    **Raising Dairy Heifers on Pasture**  
Gerald Jaeger, custom dairy heifer raiser  
Campellsport, Wisconsin
- 11:30 am**    **Tour of Hildebrandt Dairy Facility**
- 1:30 pm**     **Tour of Hildebrandt Dairy Facility (repeat)**
- 1:30 pm**     **Update on Cow Health Issues**  
Dr. Dick Wallace, Extension Veterinarian  
University of Illinois

## Calling All Exhibitors!

The 2006 Illinois Forage Expo is looking for commercial exhibitors to display new ideas in equipment, storage, seeding, and other forage-related products.

IFGC Corporate members receive an inside 10x10 display included in membership dues. Registration is required to reserve booth space; please complete a form and return to the address listed on the form.

If you are interested, please contact IFGC at 618-664-0555 x3, or President Ron Atherton at 815-589-2525. Exhibitor information is also available at [www.illinoisforage.org](http://www.illinoisforage.org).

## Awards Deadline Is August 11

It's not too late to send in nominations for the Illinois Forage and Grassland Council Awards. Three categories have been established, to honor individuals, organizations and companies who have supported the forage industry this year. These categories are as follows.

### *Outstanding Producer Award*

Presented to an individual producer (major source of income derived from use of land for forage) who has been outstanding in the production, harvesting, storing, utilization, and/or marketing of quality forages in Illinois.

### *Outstanding Education/Government Award*

Presented to an individual (employed by an educational institution, US government, or agency) who has demonstrated exceptional service and leadership to Illinois forage.

### *Outstanding Industry Award*

Presented to a company or individual representative of a company that has demonstrated outstanding commitment, interest, support, and assistance to the Illinois forage industry.

The application includes a brief description 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

Send applications to Jim Morrison, Rockford Extension Center, 417 Ware Ave Suite 102, Rockford IL 61107-6412. If you have any questions, please contact Jim at 815-397-7714.

## 2006 Grazing School Dates

Sponsored by the Risk Management Association, USDA-NRCS, University of Illinois Extension, Illinois Grassland Conservation Initiative, and IFGC.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location/Registration Contact</b>
Aug. 1	U of I Extension Office Murphysboro, IL Jackson County Extension office 618-687-1727
Aug. 2	U of I Extension Office Salem, IL Marion County Extension office 618-548-1446
Aug. 3	Dixon Springs Ag Center Simpson, IL Dixon Springs Ag Center 618-695-2441
Aug. 28	U of I Extension Office Carrollton, IL Greene County Extension 217-942-6996
Aug. 29	Douglas-Hart Nature Center, Mattoon, IL Coles County SWCD 217-345-3901 ext. 3
Aug. 22	Logan County Extension Center Lincoln, IL Logan County Extension 217-732-8289
Sept. 6	Kankakee Community College Workforce Development Center Conference Hall, Kankakee IL Kankakee Extension Office 815-933-8337

Cost of each workshop is \$15 (pre-register 1 week before workshop date) or \$20 (at the door). Fee covers materials and lunch/dinner. This workshop is recommended for all NRCS program EQIP and CSP participants. Contact your local NRCS office if you have questions about the EQIP or CSP programs.

## Grazing School for Livestock Producers and EQIP Applicants

A series of Grazing Schools will be provided across the state this summer to meet the needs of livestock producers and to provide EQIP applicants an opportunity to receive additional education. The following specific topics are being planned:

- Grazing Goals and Definitions
- Forage Species Suitability & Supply and Demand
- Pasture vs. Hayland Fertility
- Weed Control Options and Life Cycles
- System Layout and Design
- Cowboy Math
- Annual Forages
- Warm Season Grasses
- Stockpiling Process
- Forage Animal Disorders
- Economics of Managed Grazing
- Matching Animal Nutritional Needs with Forage Quality and Quantity

The presenters will consist of U of I Extension Educators and NRCS Grazing Specialists. See the list, left, for Grazing School locations and dates.

*All Grazing School workshops being held throughout Illinois are sponsored by Illinois Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative, USDA/Natural Resources Conservation Service, Risk Management Association, University of Illinois Extension, and Illinois Forage and Grassland Council.*

**Dues Reminder** — IFGC Dues can be paid any time throughout the year. Annual dues are \$25, which includes membership in AFGC, quarterly newsletter from IFGC, and a subscription to AFGC's Forage Leader! Contact Joy at the address, phone number, and/or email address shown on page 10; or see the website ([www.illinoisforage.org](http://www.illinoisforage.org)) for an application. Thank you for your support!

## Illinois Forage and Grassland Council



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## Forage's Future Here Today



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 (Edu)	<b>Dean Oswald</b> Work Phone (309) 836 2265 Voice mail for Roger Staff

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> (309) 531 4229	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	04-06
	<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