

Spring 2006

Issue #88

Forage Feed

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Important Dates:

- Illinois Forage Expo August 25, 2006 near Belvidere IL
- Horsefest August 26-27, 2006 Boone County Fairgrounds, Belvidere IL
- Heart of America Grazing Conference January 24-25, 2007 (multi-state program), Mt. Vernon, IL

New Officers, Directors Elected at 2006 IFGC Annual Meeting

IFGC held its annual meeting on Friday, February 24 at The Heritage House Inn in Harvard, IL.

Officers for 2006-08 are President Ron Atherton, Vice-President Don Brown Jr., Co-Secretary-Treasurers Joy Dierkes and Jerry Millburg, and Past President Dean Oswald.

Appreciation plaques were presented to Ron Tombaugh, Dean Oswald, and Roger Staff for their work, time and dedication in organizing the 2005 AFGC Annual Meeting, held in Bloomington on June 11-15, 2005. Ruth Hambleton also received an appreciation award, for her many years as Secretary-Treasurer for IFGC.

Highlights from 2005 include the AFGC Annual Meeting and Forage Expo, held at Funk Farms near Shirley; the Forage Institute produced an excellent Forage Spokesperson contest,



Ruth Hambleton (R) receives an Appreciation Award plaque from 2004-06 Past President Roger Staff. Ruth served as IFGC Secretary-Treasurer for many years



2004-06 President Dean Oswald (L) receives an Appreciation Award from 2006-08 President Ron Atherton (R)

and IFGC partnered with 13 other agencies to secure grant funds from USDA Risk Management Agency. Financial reports indicated an annual net profit of \$16,053, due in large part to the success of the AFGC Annual Meeting, held in conjunction with the Forage Expo.

IFGC 2006 Board members are:

Producer representatives: Jim Burrus of Jacksonville, Beau Byington of Plano, David Schaefer of Beecher City, and Zane Schneider of Trenton.

Education/Government representatives: Matt Bunger, USDA/NRCS, Normal; Frank Ireland, Simpson; Jim Morrison U of I Extension, Rockford; and Roger Staff, USDA/NRCS, Greenville.

Industry representatives: Ryan Bergmann, Bergmann Seed, Carthage; Kevin Schwarz, Alvey Lab, Carlye; and Scott Jones, Midwest Grass & Forage, in Industry.

2006 IFGC Corporate Members

Agri-King Nutrition, Inc., Fulton, IL
Dow AgroSciences, Graham, MO
Growmark, Bloomington, IL
GFC/Bale Band-It, Pittsfield, IL
Hoffman Seed House, Hoffman, IL
Merial, Heyworth, IL
Midwest Laboratories, Inc., Omaha, NE
Midwest Grass & Forage, Industry, IL
MIX30/Agri-dyne, Springfield, IL
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.

IFGC Award Nominees Wanted

The IFGC Board has reinstated an award program. The Board felt it was very appropriate to recognize individuals and/or companies that have demonstrated exceptional leadership and commitment to the forage industry, or have been outstanding in the production, utilization, and marketing of forages.

The program consists of three awards that align with our membership categories: Outstanding Producer, Outstanding Education/Government, and Outstanding Industry. These awards will be presented during the Illinois Forage Expo, August 25 at Belvidere. The description and nomination form is enclosed.

Nominations are due August 11 to Jim Morrison, 417 Ware Ave., Suite 102, Rockford, IL 61107-6412; FAX 815-397-8620.

Take time now to nominate someone you feel is deserving. Thank you for helping to make this recognition possible.

Who Are the Corporate Sponsors of IFGC?

This month's highlight is Midwest Laboratories

Midwest Laboratories started operations in 1975 in Omaha, Nebraska. Midwest is a National Analytical testing laboratory supplying analytical data in the following areas:

AGRICULTURAL TESTING: Soils, Feeds and Forages, Plant Tissue, Fertilizers, Pesticides and Nematodes.

ENVIRONMENTAL TESTING: Drinking water, Ground Water, Wastewater, Biosolids, Petroleum, Hazardous Wastes and Heavy metals.

FOODS TESTING: Nutritional labeling, Shelf life studies, Meats, Frozen Foods, Nutritional and Snack Foods and Pet Foods.

The staff at Midwest includes Agronomists, Biologists, Chemists, Environmental Scientists, Microbiologists, Computer Programmers, Administrative staff and Laboratory Field Representatives. They have achieved a variety of accreditations and certifications including certification in the National Forage Testing Association as well as being a member of the Illinois Forage and Grassland Council.

All analytical data and submittal forms as well as supplies can be accessed from their website with an account number and password. Midwest archives customer's analytical data for easy retrieval.

For additional information and analytical fees, contact Midwest Laboratories at 402-334-7770 or visit their website: www.midwestlabs.com.

Hurricane Items Still Needed

Hurricane relief items are still needed by producers in the Gulf Coast region. If you would like to donate hay (large squares haul best, but small squares and round bales are also appreciated), cattle feed, horse feed, pet food, fencing supplies, tools, feeders, straw.

Another truckload is being organized for delivery soon.

To donate, please contact Don Brown Jr.

815-238-8372

or

Jim Drafall

608-214-3401

President's Corner By Ron Atherton

As your newly elected President of IFGC, I wish to introduce myself. A lifetime resident of northwestern Illinois, I was raised on a dairy, beef and swine operation. In 1971, I graduated from Western Illinois University with a BS degree in Agricultural Mechanization and minor in Business Administration. Since March of 1975 I have been employed by Agri-King, Inc. of Fulton, IL, a firm providing livestock nutritional products, consultations, forage treatment programs, and laboratory services for forage and grain for clients worldwide. That's right, I have worked for the same company for more than 31 years, doing everything from running the mainframe computer to direct selling of our products and services. I have been a member of NWIFGC for 12 years, having serving on its board of directors.

My wife Charlotte and our 14-year-old son Ryan live on a 40 acre "farm" near Thomson. We enjoy hunting, golfing, RVing and a model railroad hobby. Charlotte has taught Hearing Impaired students for 31 years. We enjoy our rural midwestern lifestyle with only short drives necessary to numerous metro areas.

I have been involved with the IFGC board for four years, serving as Vice-President for two years. Along with others, I was involved with last year's sponsorship of the AFGC Conference in Bloomington and planning for the Forage Expos and Institutes of the last three years.

IFGC just completed a very successful Forage Institute at Harvard, IL that was aimed at educating members and horse persons concerning the needs of hay for horses. Our Forage Expo in August will be in or near the Boone County Fairgrounds in conjunction with a two-day horse event to further knowledge and education in this area. If you have suggestions as to locations and/or goals for 2007-08 Institutes and Expos, please let me know. East central/southern Illinois are where we would like to be.

Roger Staff, Dean Oswald, Ron Tombaugh, and myself just returned from the 2006 AFGC Conference in San Antonio, TX where Dean was awarded a Merit Award

and Ron received a Presidential Certificate for work in behalf of AFGC and the forage and grassland industries. IFGC received an Honorable Mention for the President's Award for Affiliate Councils, which we won last year. Many thanks to all who helped make this recognition possible and congratulations to Dean and Ron for jobs well done.

I am looking forward to serving you and ask for your continued support and help in continuing IFGC's growth and goals. In February we had more than 125 members and with hard work, determination and focus, we will include many more individuals and companies which value membership in an organization supporting forage and grassland production and education.

Regards,

Ronald L. Atherton
President IFGC
Ron.Atherton@agriking.com
800-435-9560 (Work)
815-622-2734 (Cell)

A Note from Past President Dean Oswald

IFGC Members and Board Members (Producers, Industry and Education/Government) ,

Thanks for all of your efforts over the last two years. Our accomplishments are at all time high levels. Our programs are strong and getting stronger. We have an outstanding newsletter and web-site that will continue to improve communication within the organization and promote IFGC to new members. We have updated our by-laws and elected a new board of directors to lead us into the future. We have greatly increased our membership and are ready to tackle the issues of the forage industry that affect our members.

Please continue to volunteer to assist with 2006-07 activities and programs. Contact an officer or board member with your thoughts or ideas that need consideration or discussion. I look forward to working with you and the executive committee over the next two years as past president.

Thanks again for a great two years!

Dean Oswald

2006 American Forage & Grassland Annual Meeting and Conference

Oswald, Tombaugh receive awards

The American Forage and Grassland Council held its annual meeting in San Antonio Texas on March 10–14.

Board of Directors transition

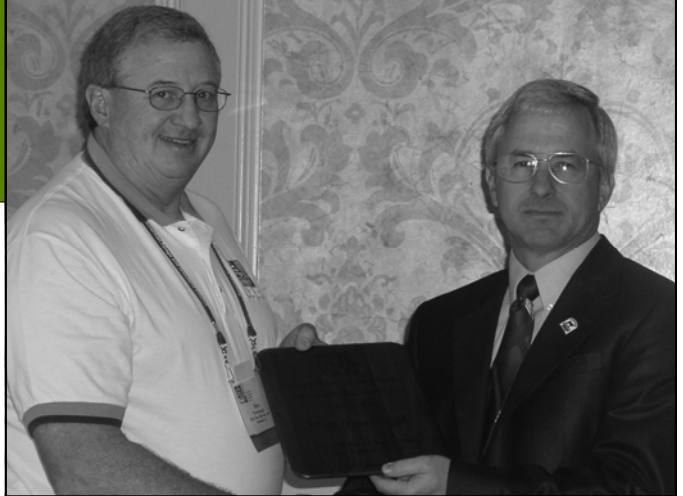
AFGC members elected new officers and a new board of directors for 2006-07. President for 2006-07 is Bill Talley of Kentucky; President-Elect is Gary Pederson of Georgia.

Awards

Several members received awards at this year's annual meeting. Ed Twidwell, 2004-05 President, received the Medallion Award for his work with AFGC.

Ron Tombaugh, pictured above with 2005-06 AFGC President Ken Johnson, received a Presidential Merit Award for his leadership with the 2005 fundraising efforts and for his work in organizing the 2005 annual conference, held in Illinois.

Dean Oswald received a Merit Award for his



Ron Tombaugh (L) receives a Presidential Merit Award from 2005-06 AFGC President Ken Johnson (R) for his leadership with the 2005 fundraising efforts.

time and dedication in hosting the 2005 AFGC Annual Conference. Dean co-chaired a committee to organize the event last year.

Change in Staff, Contact Information

AFGC will have a staffing change in the resignation of Executive Secretary Dana Tucker. She has served in this capacity for AFGC for over 15 years.

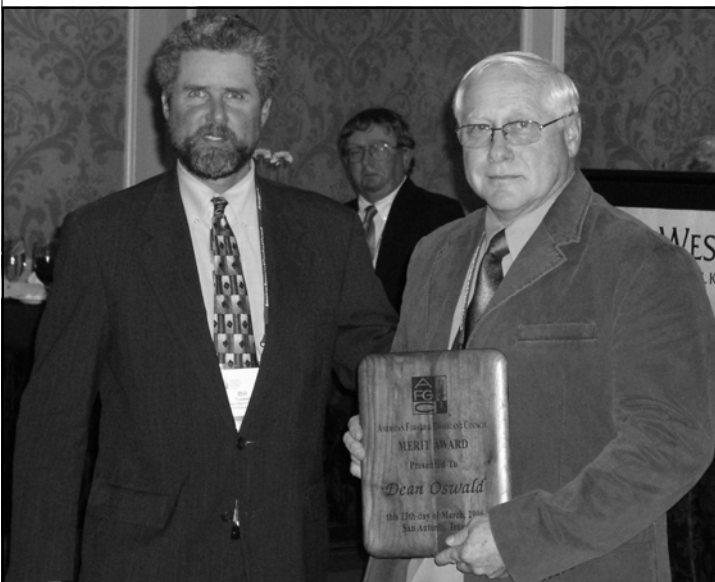
During the transition period, please note the following changes: email address will be AFGC2006@hotmail.com; fax number 270-769-5355. AFGC's address (PO Box 94, Georgetown, TX 78627) and phone number (1-800-944-2342) will remain the same.

2007 Annual Conference to be Held in Pennsylvania

The 2007 AFGC Annual Meeting and Conference is scheduled to be held on June 24-27, 2007 at the Penn State Conference Center. In College Station, Pennsylvania.

The 2008 AFGC Annual Meeting will be held in conjunction with a conference sponsored by the Society of Range Management (SRM). It will be held in Louisville, Kentucky on Jan. 26-Feb. 1 2008.

Watch the AFGC publication, "Forage Leader" for more details, or check the website at www.afgc.org



AFGC Vice President Bill Tucker presents 2004-06 AFGC President Dean Oswald with the AFGC Merit Award for his time and dedication in hosting the AFGC 2005 Annual Conference in Bloomington on June 11-17, 2005.

2006 Illinois Forage and Grassland Council Awards

(Winners to be recognized during the Annual Meeting, February 24 in Harvard. Current IFGC officers and board members are not eligible.)



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.

----- Nomination Form -----

Award _____

Nominee Name, Address, Phone, Title and Affiliation (if appropriate) _____

Briefly describe, on the following sheet, 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

Nominator Name: _____

Affiliation, Address, and Phone: _____

On a separate sheet, please describe here why the nominee deserves the specific award.

Please return by August 11, 2006 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

Rodeo Needs Volunteers!!

The National High School Rodeo Finals (NHSRF) returns to the Illinois State Fairgrounds July 24-30, 2006.

The National High School Rodeo Finals represent the culmination of years of hard work, practice and dedication on the part of high school age students who take part in rodeo activities. The NHSRF will attract over 6,000 contestants and family members to the fairgrounds each day. Participants come from 44 states as well as Australia and Canada.

Volunteers are needed to assist in rodeo operations and activities during the event in the following areas. Contestant Registration, Horse Check-In*, Stabling*, Message Center, Ticketing, Trade Show, Hospitality, Host Family, Camping Check-In, Parking and Security.

Volunteers must be 14 years of age or older (some restrictions apply to those under 21). This is a great chance to see this world-class event up close and be part of the action.

If you are interested in volunteering during the rodeo, please call Pati Kohlbecker at the Illinois State Fair at 217-782-0772 or email her at Pkohlbecker@agr.state.il.us for more information.

**Requires experience with horses*

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

The presenters will consist of U of I Extension Educators and NRCS Grazing Specialists.

The dates and locations are being finalized at this time. Watch for further details on the IBA website (www.illinoisbeef.com) and on Illinois Forage and Grassland Council's website, (www.illinoisforage.org), as well as the other media sources.

These programs will be sponsored by:
 Illinois Grassland Conservation Initiative (ILGLCI)
 Illinois Forage and Grassland Council (IFGC)
 U of I Extension
 USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
 USDA Risk Management Agency

Update from AFGC Board

This year will be a year of transition with the change in AFGC Executive Secretary. Many AFGC Board members are taking on a particular duty or task to keep the AFGC member services provided at an acceptable level during our transition and hiring phase of a new Executive Secretary. The phone number will be the same; however, most calls will receive an answering machine. Please leave a message and it will be directed to the proper party to address and respond back to you. The interim fax number will be 270-769-5355.

The web site will be another resource to access the programs and AFGC information. A special email address has been established (AFGC2006@hotmail.com) to accept email communication. AFGC's mailing address is the same, so any correspondence will be uninterrupted. The Executive Board plans to have a new Executive Secretary in place by the fall board meeting, tentatively scheduled for the last weekend in Oct. 2006. If you experience delays in responses, please be patient and the AFGC board will get back to you as soon as possible. There will be only three issues of the Forage Leader this year, due to financial costs of publication. The Forage Leader is always looking for new advertisers.

The AFGC membership is growing with a new council added in Georgia. Colorado is in the process of forming a new council as well. Illinois has 110 individual and 10 corporate members, and is still growing. Many membership blanks were distributed at the Beef Expo; hopefully these will be sent in soon!

Remember we are the voice of Forage Agriculture here in Illinois! I would like to challenge each of our IFGC members to recruit one new member this year. Whether you are a hay producer or livestock producer, forages can help your operation become more sustainable and profitable. I'll look forward to see you at the next Forage event!

Roger Staff, AFGC Board Member

Deadline for Certified Grassland Professional

Certified Grassland Professional forms should be submitted by December 31, 2006, to be grandfathered in under current rules. For details, see the AFGC web site, www.afgc.org.

Grazing Conference to be Held June 13 in Macomb

6th Western Illinois Grazing Conference

June 13th, 2006 - 9:00 am -3:00 pm

WIU Livestock Center

(One mile west of Rt. 67 on Tower Road at the north edge of Macomb)

The 2006 featured speaker will be Cliff Little, Beef Research Specialist, from Ohio State University Extension. Cliff's presentations will be on Experiences with Annual Crops and the Palatability of Cool Season Grasses.

Other speakers will be from seed companies: Ampac seeds, David Robison "Characteristics and Potential of Brassic Species"; Barenbrug seeds, Steve Wallace "Allocating Forage Species Based on Farm and Class of Livestock" and Tom Kolkmier with Pennington seeds "Managing Risk with Tall Fescue Systems". Dean Oswald, U of I Extension will discuss "Animal-Plant Risks", Jim Morrison, U of I Extension will discuss "Species Diversity" and Ken Nimrick and Roger Staff will discuss an "Overview of Risk Factors and Management Options". An Ask the Expert session will be offered with an opportunity to discuss your specific questions or problems on management, species, fertility, weed and insect control, watering systems, fencing, pasture establishment, record keeping, etc. Bring your aerial photos, maps, pictures or diagrams as needed. This will be held after the presentations are completed.

Registration is \$20 per person before June 10. After that or at the door registration will be \$25 per person. Fee includes lunch and handout materials. Make checks payable to Western Illinois University Ag Dept. Mail to Agriculture Department, Western Illinois University, 1 University Circle, Macomb, Ill. 61455.

For details call WIU Ag Dept. 309-298-1080 or Ken Nimrick 309-298-1288.

Sponsors include:

USDA-Risk Management Agency
Illinois Grassland Conservation Initiative
Western Illinois University Ag Dept.
USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service
University of Illinois Extension
Illinois Forage and Grassland Council

2006 Forage Programs

Sponsored by the University of Illinois Extension

–June 13, 2006: **Western Illinois Grazing Conference, Macomb, IL**, for further information contact Dr. Ken Nimrick, Western Illinois University, 309-298-1288

–June 21, 2006: **Dairy Tour & Pasture Walk, Carroll County**, for further information contact Mark Maidak, mmaidak@uiuc.edu JoDavie/Carroll Extension Unit, 815-858-2273

–January 24-25, 2007: **Heart of America Grazing Conference (multi-state program), Holiday Inn, Mt. Vernon, IL**, for further information contact Justin Sexten, sex-ten@uiuc.edu, Mt. Vernon Extension Center, 618-242-9310

2006 Forage Expo To Be Held August 25 in Belvidere

The 2006 Illinois Forage and Grassland Council Forage Expo will be held on Friday, August 25 near Belvidere. Demonstration sites are being sought at this time. This event is also being held in conjunction with the Horsefest, which will be held on Saturday and Sunday, August 26-27 at the Boone County Fairgrounds, also in Belvidere.

The location and agenda are being finalized at the printing of this newsletter. For more information, please check regularly with the IFGC website, www.illinoisforage.org.

2005 Freeport Alfalfa Variety Trial

Brand-Variety	24-Jun	27-Jul	2005 26-Aug	Total	Relative Yield
	T DM/A	T DM/A	T DM/A	T DM/A	% Trial Mean
* Experimental					
MILESTONE*	1.99	1.17	1.48	4.64	109
4R429	1.87	1.20	1.51	4.58	107
4A421	1.99	1.23	1.35	4.57	107
BPR387*	1.96	1.14	1.44	4.54	106
53Q30	1.79	1.15	1.46	4.41	103
LEGENDAIRY 5.0	1.79	1.09	1.43	4.31	101
6420	1.78	1.12	1.40	4.30	101
6415	1.69	1.13	1.37	4.19	98
WL 345 LH	1.71	1.12	1.36	4.18	98
REBOUND 5.0	1.66	1.08	1.41	4.14	97
54V46	1.66	1.14	1.32	4.11	96
6200HT	1.76	1.03	1.30	4.09	96
VERNAL	1.66	1.02	1.26	3.94	92
A 30-06	1.73	1.00	1.13	3.85	90
Mean	1.79	1.11	1.37	4.27	
5%_LSD	0.29	0.12	0.17	0.50	
CV(%)	11.42	7.35	8.69	8.15	
MCV(%)	16.34	10.52	12.42	11.65	

Date of Seeding: April 7, 2005.

Soil Type: Flagg silt loam.

Herbicides: April 7 (Treflan) June 14 and July 27 (Select).

Pest Control: June 14, June 24 and July 27 (Pounce).

Plot Dimensions: 3' x19'.

Hay and Straw Pricing for the State of Illinois

As a buyer or seller, do you ever wonder what hay prices are doing? Do you want to know what conditions are influencing supplies and pricing? The USDA's Market News Service releases this information monthly on its website. To review the reports go to www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/GX_GR310.txt, this report is released monthly on the first Friday of the month from October thru April. It will be released on the first and third Friday's during the harvest season from May thru September.

The hay report is produced with the help of Illinois hay producers and buyers. These groups are contacted on a regular basis and report on hay sales, prices and growing conditions. The information is collected for all areas of the state and separated into the northern, central and southern regions. If you have further questions or if you would like to become a contact, call Jerry Millburg at the Illinois Department of Agriculture. His phone number is 217-782-4925.

Membership Cards Enclosed

It's not too late to pay dues!!

2006 membership cards are being included with this mailing for all Illinois Forage & Grassland Council members, including Northwestern and Western Illinois affiliates.

If your membership card is not included, please contact Joy Dierkes at 618-664-0555 x3 or email her at joy.dierkes@il.usda.gov. She will send a replacement card to you promptly.

If you have not paid 2006 dues yet, it is not too late. IFGC dues are accepted anytime throughout the year! Annual dues are \$25, which includes membership in AFGC, quarterly newsletter from IFGC, and a subscription to AFGC's Forage Leader!

Applications can be found at the IFGC website (www.illinoisforage.org), or contact Joy at the address, phone number, and/or email address shown on the back page. Thank you for your support!

Internet Hay Directory

Illinois hay dealers and individual producers can find suppliers or advertise hay and straw online at the Illinois Department of Agriculture's website www.agr.state.il.us at no charge. If you have access to the internet, you could place and maintain your own ad on the website. If you don't have access, contact Jerry Millburg at the Illinois Department of Agriculture, he will be glad to take your information and place the ad for you. Jerry's phone number is 217-782-4925. On the site you can either offer hay for sale or use it to buy hay for your own needs.

To list an ad or review the hay offered for sale, go to the website www.agr.state.il.us, then scroll down the center column to Hay Directory and click on the heading. To list an ad to buy or sell hay, you must click on the heading, "List an Ad". If you are a new member, you will need to register. Just click on the heading Register Now, fill out the information and follow the directions.

The directory began in 2003 due to drought conditions in the state and other regions in the U.S. It gave producers and hay users another tool to locate available supplies of hay whether you are in this state or in a neighboring state. Last year when weather conditions turned hot and dry and hay supplies were down from the previous year, the website enabled producers to find and sell hay.



Earl Mosher, 2nd from right in white sweater, is thanked by Mike McMillin of the Harris County Extension Office in Gulf Port, MS

Illinois Forage and Grassland Council



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Greenville, IL 62246

Phone: (618) 664-0555 x3
Fax: (618) 664-3958
secretary-treasurer@illinoisforage.org

Forage Feed is published by the Illinois Forage and Grassland Council.

Editors: Joy Dierkes, Co-Secretary-Treasurer
Jerry Millburg, Co-Secretary-Treasurer

Contributions for publication should be mailed to the above address.

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.

2005 IFGC Officers and Board

2005 IFGC Officers

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

Check out IFGC's web site at
www.illinoisforage.org

Board of Directors

<u>Producers</u>	Beau Byington (630) 364-6568	06-09
	Jim Burrus (217) 245 7548	04-07
	David Schaefer (618) 487-5565	04-07
	Zane Schneider (309) 531 4229	06-08
<u>Edu/Gov</u>	Matt Bunger (309) 452-0830	06-09
	Frank Ireland (618) 695-2442	06-07
	Jim Morrison (815)-397-7714	04-06
	Roger Staff (217) 621-4789	06-09
<u>Industry</u>	Ryan Bergman (217) 357 2714	06-07
	Kevin Schwarz (618) 594 7646	06-08
	Scott Jones (309) 254-3556	05-08