



Forage Feed

Inside this issue:

Illinois Forage Institute, Thursday, March 5, 2009

Illinois Forage Institute March 5, 2009 Fulton, IL	1 & 2	<p>Illinois Forage Institute Thursday, March 5, 2009 Del Curley Conference Center Agri-King, Inc, Fulton, IL Located north of the intersection of US Rt 30 & Rt 84 in Whiteside County</p> <p>8:30 am Registration & Refreshments. Hay accepted until 10:00 am for Quality Hay Contest</p> <p>9:00 am Update on Jo-Carroll Energy's Planned Bio-Mass Electric Generating Station, Thomson, IL <i>Russ Simpson, Senior Vice President, Jo-Carroll Energy</i></p> <p>10:00 am Review & Update on the USDA Forage Research Center Expansion <i>Ron Hatfield, Plant Physiologist, USDA Forage Research Center, Arlington, WI</i></p> <p>10:35 am What's New in Forage Testing, Why Are Lab Tests From One Lab Different From Another?</p>	<p><i>Dr. Dave Casper, Vice-President Nutritional Services, Agri-King, Inc.</i></p>
NWIFGC Summer & Winter Tours	2		11:15 am Forage Establishment Methods for Annuals & Perennials <i>Miles Kuhn, Forage Agronomist, FFR Cooperatives</i>
IFGC Membership Dues	3		12 Noon Lunch Visit with Exhibitors
Time for Frost Seeding Approaches	4		1:00 pm Using the Drought Calculator <i>Arnold Norman, Rangeland Management Specialist, USDA NRCS</i>
IFGC Annual Meeting March 4	4		1:45 pm IFGC Forage Spokesperson Contest
AFGC Annual Conference, June 21-23 Grand Rapids, MI	5		2:45 pm Break
IFGC Members Attend AFGC Leadership Conference	5		3:00 pm Overview of Agri-King, Inc.
USDA Hay Market Report	5		3:15 pm Tour of Agri-King, Inc. Lab Facilities
Grazing Sticks & Alfalfa PEAQ Sticks Available	5		4:00 pm Adjourn
NWIFGC Hay Auctions	6		
Support IFGC Corporate Members	6 & 7		
<p>Important Dates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 4, IFGC Annual Meeting, Fulton, IL • March 5, Illinois Forage Institute, Fulton, IL • June 21-23, AFGC Annual Conference, Grand Rapids, Michigan 			<p><i>Illinois Forage Institute preregistration on page 2</i></p>

Illinois Forage Institute Registration

**Illinois Forage Institute,
March 5, 2009, 9:00 am—4:00 pm**

Registration Form:

Registrations due February 24, 2009

Registration Fee

\$15.00 per person,
postmarked by February 24.

\$20.00 per person after February 24
or at the door.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____

E-mail _____

Make check payable to:

Illinois Forage & Grassland Council

Send registration to:

University of Illinois Extension
Whiteside County Unit Office
100 E. Knox Street
Morrison, IL 61270
Phone: 815-772-4075

If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this program, please contact the Whiteside County Extension Unit Office at 815-772-4075

Registration form also available on line at
<http://www.illinoisforage.org/#dates>

Northwestern Illinois Forage & Grassland Council Summer & Winter Tours

The Northwestern Illinois Forage & Grassland Council sponsored a summer tour held on August 27, 2008 and a winter tour held on January 21, 2009.

For the summer event they toured the University of Illinois Alfalfa Variety Plots which are hosted by Dave Macomber Dairy Farm near Freeport. The variety trials include both commercial and experimental alfalfa varieties. The second stop was to view a methane digester at the Scheidairy Farm, Freeport. Doug Scheider and his family operate a 750 cow confinement dairy operation.

The January tour was partnered with the Stephenson County Beef Association and included several stops in Iowa. Forty-four individuals toured the Acciona Energy Wind Turbine Manufacturing Facility at West Branch, Iowa. The plant assembles wind turbines that weigh 43,000 pounds when assembled. The second stop was at Kinze Manufacturing plant, Williamsburg, Iowa. The group viewed planters being assembled which are completed nine to ten months during the year, the production line assembles grain carts during the remainder of the year.



Northwestern Forage & Grassland Council members touring the Acciona Energy Wind Turbine Manufacturing Facility at West Branch, Iowa on January 21, 2009.

2009 Membership Application: Illinois Forage and Grassland Council

2009 INDIVIDUAL IFGC Membership Application (January 1, 2009 – December 31, 2009)
Make check payable to Illinois Forage and Grassland Council

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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 council: Northwestern Illinois FGC _____ Western Illinois FGC _____

Individual membership dues are **\$25.00 (\$30 if member of Northwestern IFGC)** 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 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

2009 CORPORATE IFGC Membership Application (January 1, 2009 – December 31, 2009)
Make check payable to Illinois Forage and Grassland Council

Name of Business _____

Contact Person _____

Business Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Business Phone(____) _____ Fax (____) _____ County _____

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Membership category (check one): Farmer _____ University/Government _____ Industry _____
If Industry (check one): Machinery _____ Seed _____ Chem. & Fert. _____ Other _____

Check if member of IFGC affiliate council: Northwestern Illinois FGC _____ Western Illinois FGC _____

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 newsletter. Also, corporate members receive complimentary standard exhibit space at two IFGC sponsored events per year and are

Time for Frost Seeding Approaches

by Jim Morrison
Crop Systems Extension Educator

One of the most cost-effective, low energy ways to improve the quality and yield of grass pastures is by frost seeding legumes. The time for frost seeding is fast approaching.

What is frost seeding? Frost seeding is the broadcast, surface placement of seed in late winter, early spring on frozen ground. Sometimes referred to as overseeding, this method is dependent upon the freezing and thawing action of soil, a late snowfall, plus early spring rains to provide soil coverage. Frost seeding should be done when the soil freezes at night and thaws on the surface during the day. Frost seeding has limited success on sandy soil and in years with abnormally dry springs, and early summer weather.

Since there may not be uniform seed germination and emergence, frost seeding is not suggested for hay fields, but is an acceptable method for pasture improvement. The practice works well on steeply sloping sites; but should not be done on snow-covered sloping ground.

What legume species are best suited for frost seeding? Experience and research has shown that medium red clover is the easiest to establish. Red clover has good seedling vigor, shade tolerance, and is more cold tolerant than alfalfa. A second option would be white clover, especially for wetter, poorly drained soil. Annual lespedeza, a warm-season, non-bloating legume can be frost seeded in southern Illinois. Frost seeded legumes need to be properly inoculated and the soil pH needs to be in the acceptable range. The degree of soil drainage will also affect the choice of legumes.

Better legume stands are obtained when frost seeding into a bunchgrass (for example, orchardgrass and tall fescue) sod or into thin sods of Kentucky bluegrass or smooth bromegrass. Frost seeding is dependent upon

the seed reaching the soil surface. One must also reduce the plant competition for the frost-seeded legume. This can be accomplished by grazing the pasture down, or reducing the residual growth, in the fall and early winter.

Frost-seeded pastures need to be grazed regularly in the spring and summer to permit sunlight to penetrate the plant canopy so the legume can grow and develop. But, livestock should not be allowed to closely graze the new seedlings until they are established.

What seeding rate should be used? If one frost seeds red clover every year, about 4 to 6 pounds per acre would be suggested. If seeding every other year, consider 8 to 10 pounds per acre. Some producers say that frost seeding yearly builds up the seed bank in the soil. White clover should be seeded at 2 to 3 pounds per acre by itself, or 1 to 2 pounds per acre if part of a seed mixture. Annual lespedeza can be sown at 15 to 20 pounds per acre.

Cyclone-type seeders that mount onto ATV's or tractor 3-point hitches are commonly used. Be sure to determine the seeding width for each seed type or mixture.

With proper grazing management and cooperation from Mother Nature, frost seeding is an economical way to improve the quality and quantity of pastures.

IFGC Annual Meeting, March 4, 2009

The IFGC Annual Meeting will be held, the evening prior to the Forage Institute, at 7pm, March 4, 2009. The meeting will be held at Agri-King, Inc, Fulton, IL which is located north of the intersection of US 30 and Rt 84 on Rt 84.

IFGC business will include election of board member terms that are expiring, presentation of financial reports and planning the 2009 Forage Expo. All IFGC members are invited.

2009 AFGC Annual Conference

The American Forage & Grassland Council will hold their 2009 Conference on June 21-23 at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

The Conference will bring producers, forage scientists and forage industry professionals together from across the United States and Canada to learn about the benefits of managed grazing systems, improved forage production systems, increased profitability and more.

Several contests are part of the 2009 AFGC Conference including the National Hay Show, National Photo Contest, Forage Spokesperson Competition, Emerging Scientist Competition, Forage Bowl and Youth in Grazing Management Competition.

Other highlights include a *National Pasture Legume Management Symposium* and professional tours of area livestock/forage operations and forage research efforts.

Conference details are available at www.afgc.org or by contacting the AFGC office at 1-800-944-2342.

IFGC Members Attend AFGC Leadership Conference

Don Brown, IFGC president, Ron Atherton and Roger Staff (both IFGC members and AFGC board members) attended the *AFGC Leadership Conference*, November 5-7 in Charlotte, North Carolina. The Conference provided participants training in three key areas listed below.

Leadership skills

Training focused on understanding the complexities of volunteering to serve non-profit organizations including board and committee leadership service.

Advocacy Skills

Participants were taught skills on how to successfully advocate, on behalf of organizations, to local and national governing bodies.

Networking Skills

Training was focused on developing stronger ties between local and national leadership.

USDA Hay Market Report

The USDA Agricultural Marketing Service collects market data on various commodities including hay. The *Illinois Hay Market Report* is published monthly and can be accessed by going to

http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/gx_gr310.txt

The USDA Agricultural Marketing Service can be accessed at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/> in order to access nationwide hay market reports from other states.

Grazing and PEAQ "Sticks" Available

IFGC has obtained *Grazing Sticks* and the *Alfalfa PEAQ Sticks* should arrive by March 1 for members at no cost. Members must attend an IFGC sponsored event such as the March 5 *Forage Institute* or the summer *Forage Expo* in order to pick up the stick of their choice. Non-members may purchase one or both sticks.

The *Grazing Stick* is a 3 feet long, 4-sided yard stick. On the stick are calculations to determine pasture area carrying capacity and available grazing days. The stick contains charts for grazing efficiency, optimum grazing periods, and forage intake rates by livestock species. Additional information includes estimated pounds of dry matter per acre per inch of growth and the percent of dry matter in a harvested plant at various stages of growth for different grass species.

The *Alfalfa PEAQ Stick* is a 4 feet long stick based on the Predictive Equations of Alfalfa Quality (PEAQ) technique that estimates pre-harvest quality in a field. The PEAQ method was developed at the University of Wisconsin and has been used in Illinois for many years. Relative feed value can be estimated based on the alfalfa height and maturity. The three different maturity stages that will be on the *Alfalfa PEAQ Stick* are late vegetative, bud, and flower stage.

NWIFGC Hay Auctions

The Northwestern Illinois Forage & Grassland Council has been hosting their hay and straw auctions at the Orangville Boco MiniMart parking lot, Route 26 Orangeville, Illinois, on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays since November. The auctions start at 11 am and will continue until early April. Orangeville is located in Stephenson County.

Consignments should arrive by 10:30 am. It is preferred, 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 the bale. Straw is typically not weighed and is sold by the bale.

Quality tested hay is encouraged, and a copy of the analysis indicating crude protein, fiber (acid detergent fiber and/or neutral detergent fiber) and relative feed value (RFV) or relative forage quality (RFQ) be brought with the consignment. Hay analysis will not be provided at the sale site.

There is no consignment fee for members of the Northwestern Illinois Forage & Grassland Council. Non-members will be charged \$10 which 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. A skid loader will be available for reloading hay and straw at the sale site.

Yearly dues for the Northwestern Illinois Forage & Grassland Council are \$30 and can be paid at the auction.

Questions about the auction can be directed to Jim McNeil, B & M Auctions, 608-938-4822 or 608-293-9999 or contact Sherry Heidenreich at 815-865-5561.

IFGC Recognizes Agri-King's Support

IFGC thanks Agri-King for their financial support in the printing costs of *Forage Feed*, the IFGC newsletter.

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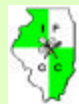
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Contributions for future *Forage Feed* issues or requests to receive future issues electronically can be emailed or mailed to the editor.



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.

2008 IFGC Officers and Board

2008 IFGC Officers

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