



December, 2010

Issue #103

Forage Feed

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2011 Forage Institute—March 24



The 2011 Illinois Forage Institute is scheduled Thursday, March 24 at the Dixon Springs Agricultural Center in Simpson, IL. The Center is located 25 miles south of Harrisburg, IL on IL Hwy. 145. The program will start at 9:00 a.m.

Presentations include: Fertility for Pastures and Hay Production, Brett Roberts, NRCS; Selecting Forage Species, Richard Hungerford, NRCS; Grazing Small Ruminants, Horses & Exotics, Dr. Clifford Shipley, University of Illinois Veterinary Medicine; and Year-Round Grazing and Forage Economics, Ed Ballard, Univ. of Illinois. The Institute will also include IL Forage Bowl Competitions, IL Forage Spokesperson selection and IFGC Award Presentations. A \$15 advanced registration fee is due March 11. For more information visit www.illinoisforage.org or contact Dave Gentry at 309-557-6397.

NWIFGC Winter Tour—Jan. 13

Important Dates:

- Jan. 13– NWIFGC Tour
- January 25-26, 2011—Heart of America Grazing Conference, Louisville, KY
- Jan. 29-Sheep & Goat Workshop, Kankakee, IL
- Feb. 2-Southern IN Grazing Conf., Odon, IN
- Feb. 5-Northern IN Grazing Conf., Shipshewana, IN
- Feb. 13-15– WI Grazing Conf., Wisconsin Dells, WI
- February 24-27, 2011—IL Beef Expo, Springfield, IL
- March 24—Forage Institute

The Northwest IFGC Winter Tour is scheduled for January 13 to the John Deere Harvester Works (combine manufacturing plant) in East Moline and Rock Island Arsenal Museum (US Army Museum). Lunch will be at Ryan's buffet. Northwest IFGC is providing the tour and bus transportation for its members.



Lunch expenses are on your own. The fee for non-members is \$30 per person. Details regarding departure and return times are being finalized. These will be "walking tours" and kids must be at least 13 years old to tour the John Deere plant. Reservations are due to Sherry Heidenreich by January 10, call 815-865-5561. Don't forget to pay your membership dues before the tour. 2011 Membership dues are payable now! A membership application is available on page



Roundup Ready Alfalfa

For everyone waiting for Roundup Ready alfalfa to be deregulated and made available for planting, the wait may be almost over. There are strong indications that the USDA is very close to publishing their intent to deregulate. There is a 30 day period between the Intent to Deregulate and the final deregulation. Once the "Intent to Deregulate" is published in the Federal Register, seed companies will be able to begin bagging seed, publish prices and begin promoting the sale of the Roundup Ready varieties.



A Federal Judge issued a stop sale/stop planting order in March, 2007 on all Roundup Ready alfalfa. He required the USDA to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement on the technology. The USDA initially said it would take 2 years to complete the study. The draft Environmental Impact Statement was published over a year ago. It drew many comments both in support and in opposition.

Not affected by the judge's ruling was the production of hay from Roundup Ready alfalfa and the production of seed from fields already in existence. Many of the original Roundup Ready fields continue to produce, although they are at the end of their production life cycle. Seed fields also have been kept in production, assuring growers new seed once the deregulation takes place.

Dave Gentry, IFGC Vice President

IFGC Award Nominations

IFGC is seeking nominations to recognize outstanding members of for their efforts in promoting the forage industry in Illinois.

The three awards are:

- **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, storage, utilization, and/or marketing of quality forages in Illinois.
- **Outstanding Education/Government Award:** Presented to an individual (employed by an educational institution, or governmental 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 provided to the Illinois forage industry outstanding commitment, interest, support, and assistance.

The awards will be presented at the 2011 Illinois Forage Institute. Current IFGC officers and board members are not eligible.

To submit a nomination please visit www.illinoisforage.org to download the application. Be prepared to provide the nominee's biographical information, the award category, and a brief description explaining why the person deserves the award. This could include a description of their forage operation, management practices or innovations; a list of significant contributions or accomplishments in forage agriculture; or a description of major involvement in forage agriculture on a local, state, or national level.

Nominations are due by Friday, February 25, 2011. Mail completed nominations to:
 Illinois Forage and Grassland Council
 P.O. Box 233
 Greenville, Ill 62246
 Email: info@illinoisforage.org

Simple Pasture Improvement—Frost Seeding

Pasture improvement doesn't have to be difficult or expensive. Mid February to mid March is the time to take advantage of Mother Nature's pasture improvement ability. Frost seeding describes the practice of surface broadcasting pastures with legume or grass seed during the late winter and early spring to take advantage of late freeze-thaw cycles and early spring rains to improve seed-to-soil contact.

Management of existing forage is important in successful frost seeding. Seeding must be completed prior to spring green-up to minimize competition by existing forages. Application of nitrogen fertilizer will reduce frost-seeding success due to increased grass competition with legume seedlings. Dense forage residue and growth will reduce frost seeding success rates so producers planning on frost seeding pastures should graze pastures short in the fall and winter to improve seed-to-soil contact by removing excess residue. Spring pasture residue can be partially overcome by harrowing pastures or allowing animals to trample in seed, provided moisture is not excessive.

While not always successful, frost-seeding legumes offers several advantages to livestock producers. Legumes have the capability to fix atmospheric nitrogen into ammonia and ultimately into nutritionally valuable plant protein. Clovers can add in excess of 100 pounds of nitrogen per acre to the soil. In addition, legumes added to toxic endophyte-infected tall fescue pastures dilute the negative endophyte effects. Legumes contain increased protein and calcium levels compared to grasses resulting in improved pasture nutrient composition.

Red and Ladino clover are two legumes well adapted to frost seeding due to ease of establishment and early seedling vigor. Seeding rates for red clover alone are 4-8

pounds per acre while ladino seeding rates are 2-3 pounds per acre. Use 4 lb/acre red and 1 ½ lb/acre Ladino when seeding a mixture.

Moderate grazing early in the growing season will help control grass and weed competition; however, avoid close grazing to ensure stand establishment. Maintain soil fertility and prevent overgrazing to extend stand life.

Justin Sexten
 Reprinted from Illini PastureNET
www.livestocktrail.uiuc.edu

10th Heart of America Grazing Conference, Louisville, KY

The 10th Heart of America Grazing Conference is planned for January 25-26, 2011 in Louisville, KY. Illinois Forage and Grassland Council is a key sponsor of this event. For more information visit www.illinoisforage.org. Presentations include these and more:

- How Much Pasture Do I Have and How Long Will It Feed My Cows? - Dr. Ray Smith, University of KY
- Tall Fescue-Endophyte-Animal Performance—Dr. Glen Aiken, USDA/ARS, KY
- Organic Dairying: Role of Grazing—Mr. Jake Schmitz, OH Valley Reg. Coordinator, Organic Valley Coop.
- Mob Grazing, High Density Grazing, Management-Intensive Grazing: What's the Difference? Mark Kennedy, NRCS, MO
- Integrated Weed Management for Enhancing Productivity of Grazed Pastures—Dr. J.D. Green, U of KY
- Grazing Goats and Cattle and Other Co-species Grazing—Jason Tower, Purdue
- Grazing Corn, Brassicas, Chicory, Eastern Gamagrass, Ryegrass, Oats, and other Non-Traditional Forages—Jeff McCutcheon, Ohio State
- Extending the Grazing Season and Reducing Stored Feed Needs—Ed Ballard, U of Illinois

Illinois Producer Wins at World Forage Superbowl



More than 270 entries from 25 states competed for top honors an over \$20,000 in cash

prizes at the 27th annual World Forage Analysis Superbowl held in conjunction with World Dairy Expo. IFGC Board Member, Kendall Guither of Walnut, IL received first place in the Commercial Baleage category. The commercial baleage contest was sponsored by W-L Research. The first place entrant in each category received a check for \$1,500, while second place received \$500, third place received \$250 and 4th place received \$100.

The World Forage Analysis Superbowl provides growers from across the United States and Canada an opportunity to vie for forage awards by entering their high quality samples in a dairy or commercial division. Dairy samples are judged on lab analysis (60%), visual judging (30%), and calculated milk per ton (10%). Commercial entries are judged on lab analysis (70%) and visual judging (30%). Visual judging consists of analyzing the color, texture, maturity and leafiness, depending on the category. AgSource Laboratories, Bonduel, Wis., tested the samples.



(Kendall Guither (left) receives his award and check from a W-L Research representative).

The champion forage producers were honored Sept. 29, at the Mycogen World Forage Analysis Superbowl Awards Luncheon held at World Dairy Expo. Additional sponsors included the National Hay Association.

The World Forage Analysis Superbowl provides a unique opportunity for World Dairy Expo visitors to view quality forage entries, hear forage experts speak about forage production and milk profitability, and ask questions about forage research.

NW IFGC Hay & Straw Auctions



The Northwest IFGC will host their 2010-2011 straw and hay auctions the

2nd and 4th Saturday's beginning at 11:00 a.m. at the Orangeville Boco Mini-Mart parking lot, Route 26. Straw will be sold by the bale. Hay is preferred to have a certified scale ticket in order to be sold by the ton. Consignments should arrive by 10:30 a.m. Lab analysis providing RFV or RFQ is recommended. All hay & straw will be sold. Non-members of the NWIFGC will be charged a \$10.00 consignment fee which will be deducted from the payment check. NWIFGC annual dues can be paid at any auction. Annual dues are \$30.00.

(Pictured at right: Janet McNeil handles the financial record keeping, and NW IFGC membership payments during the hay & straw auctions.)



Benefits of IFGC Membership

\$5.00
Student
membership

Do you have a high school or college student that is interested in the latest forage and agriculture news?

Starting in 2011 IFGC is offering a \$5.00 Student Membership. Sign your student up to receive the benefits of being a member of Illinois Forage and Grassland Council. A membership application is enclosed or visit the www.illinoisforage.org website to download a copy.

FORAGE EXPO: IFGC annually sponsors a summer event to highlight the many uses of forages in the state of Illinois. The Forage Expo is held on a producer's farm and rotated every 3 years from the North, to Central, and then to the South in the 3 regions of the state. This event includes forage equipment demonstrations, displays, educational sessions, forage management techniques and improved grazing management concepts, hay testing and hay quality judging. The exhibitors at these events represent the latest in forage seeds, forage technologies and equipment available in the forage industry today.

FORAGE INSTITUTE: The spring event is the annual Forage Institute which includes educational presentations on forage and forage management topics. These topics include a wide range of presentations on stored feeds, fertility requirements and solutions, forage disease control methods, feed nutrition improvements through better forage management and better grazing management concepts. Research, University and Industry professionals share the latest in technology.

FORAGE FEED: The quarterly newsletter, the "Forage Feed", is mailed to all members and distributed at the IFGC Forage Institute and Forage Expo. It is also available at IL Beef Expo, Farm Progress Show and any other IFGC sponsored booths or events.

AFGC MEMBERSHIP: Becoming a member of Illinois Forage and Grassland Council also

automatically enrolls you as a member of the American Forage and Grassland Council, AFGC. Benefits of being an AFGC member include:

Forage Leader: Automatically receive Forage Leader, a bi-monthly electronic newsletter from AFGC. It provides members with association and industry news, information on upcoming events, and feature articles covering today's hot topics.

Hay and Forage Grower: AFGC membership entitles the member to a special subscription to the *Hay and Forage Grower Magazine*. Members will receive the January, February, March, April, May, August and November issues.

Annual Conference: Each year AFGC holds an Annual Conference to promote the latest in forage production throughout all the country. Highlights of the Annual Conference include Forage Spokesperson Contest, Forage Tours, Emerging Scientist Contest, Affiliate Council Meeting, Annual AFGC Business Meeting, AFGC Board Meeting, Hay Contest, Photo Contest, and Banquet. Undoubtedly, the premier national forage conference held in the United States.

For more information visit the IFGC website at www.illinoisforage.org or contact an IFGC Board member.

Thanks to Corporate Member, **AGRI-KING**, for Sponsoring IFGC Newsletter Printing



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Membership Application: Illinois Forage and Grassland Council

INDIVIDUAL IFGC Membership Application (January 1 – December 31)

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.

_____ \$ 5 Student Membership

_____ \$25 Individual Membership: (_____ 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*

Student dues are \$5.00 and 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

CORPORATE IFGC Membership Application (January 1 – December 31)

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.

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 recognized in the *Forage Feed* newsletter.

2010 IFGC Corporate Members



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Find out more at www.ilfb.org



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



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.

2010 IFGC Officers and Board

2010 IFGC Officers

President (Edu/Gov)	Matt Bunger (217) 473-2690 mbbunger@yahoo.com
Vice President (Industry)	David Gentry (309) 557-6397 dgentry@growmark.com
Treasurer (Edu/Gov)	Jerry Millburg Office (888) 458-4787 Jerry.Millburg@usda.gov
Secretary (Edu/Gov)	Roger Staff (618) 664-3590, ext 3 Roger.Staff@il.usda.gov
Past President (Producer)	Don Brown, Jr. (815) 238-8372 Don.brownjr@yahoo.com

Board of Directors

<u>Producers:</u>	<u>Term</u>
David Ernst	2010-2013
Kendall Guither	2009-2012
David Schaefer	2008-2011
Clint Smith	2008-2011
<u>Education/Government:</u>	
Dale Baird	2009-2012
Jeff Hyett	2009-2012
Frank Ireland	2010-2013
<u>Industry:</u>	
Ron Atherton	2010-2013
Doug Hanson	2009-2012
Jonnie Ulm	2008-2011
Bob Reid	2010-2013

For more information visit www.illinoisforage.org.