

Master Grazer- Graze 300 Educational Program

2017 First 4 Month Report

(January 1st – April 30th, 2017)

UK Grazing News Newsletter

- Three issues (January, February, and April) of the *UK Grazing News* were published during this reporting period. These issues contained articles written to help KY producers improve their grazing practices during the late winter through the spring grazing season.
- These issues of the newsletter were sent electronically to all 120 UK agriculture and natural resource Extension agents who utilize the articles and information in their local programming, newsletters, newspaper articles, and on local extension websites.
- An additional 381 electronic subscribers received the e-version of *UK Grazing News*. Copies of each issue were mailed to an additional 197 households who have requested printed copies because of limited or unavailable email access.

Master Grazer Website and Promotion (www2.ca.uky.edu/grazer)

- New material was added to the UK Master Grazer Website. The home page contains links to current and previous articles found in *UK Grazing News* newsletter, electronic subscription to our newsletter, informational video clips, information regarding participating in upcoming events and programs, reports and accomplishments, links to other useful websites, and important contacts.
- At the KY Dairy Partners Statewide Meeting, KY Alfalfa and Stored Forage Meeting, and UK Breathitt Co Community Expo, Master Grazer program shared a booth with UK partners. Besides interacting face-to-face with attendees, copies of our newsletter and brochures of our upcoming educational programs were available for producers to take home with them.


Grazing and Pasture Timely Tips

- [Frost-seeding Clover Video](#): The first video explaining the key points for successfully frost-seeding clover was filmed and shared via YouTube.

FROST SEEDING CLOVER: JUST DO IT!

By: Dr. Chris Teutsch

Everyone is familiar with Nike's ad campaign that encourages people to "JUST DO IT". I am officially adopting this slogan for my 2017 Frost Seeding Campaign. Legumes are an essential part of a strong and healthy nitrogen cycle in grasslands. Listed below are a few steps that we can take that will help to ensure that our FROST seeding's are successful.



Red and White clover are two good options when frost seeding.

Control Broadleaf Weeds. This is best accomplished by controlling weeds the season prior to renovation.

Soil Test and Adjust Fertility. In order for pasture renovation to be successful proper soil fertility is required. Lime should be applied six months prior to renovation if possible.

Suppress Sod and Decrease Residue. The existing sod must be suppressed and plant residue reduced prior to seeding. The reduction in plant residue facilitates good soil-seed contact. This can be accomplished by hard grazing in late fall and early winter.

Ensure Good Soil-Seed Contact. Regardless of what seeding method is chosen, good soil-seed contact is required for seed germination and emergence.

Seed on Proper Date. Frost seeding legumes back into pastures is best accomplished in late winter to early spring (between February 1 and March 10). Frost seeding is accomplished by simply broadcasting the seed on the soil surface and allowing the freezing and thawing cycles to incorporate the seed into the soil. After March 1, drilling legumes into pastures with a no-till seeder is recommended since there may not be enough freezing and thawing cycles to adequately incorporate seed. *Prior planning and preparation are important so that seeding can be done in a timely manner.*

Use High-Quality Seed of an Adapted Species. Use either certified or proprietary seed to ensure high germination, seed genetics, and low noxious weed content. In Kentucky, a good mixture for renovating pastures is to incorporate 6-8 lbs red clover, or 1-2 lbs of ladino white clover. In low pH and fertility soils, the addition of 10-15 lbs of annual lespedeza per acre can improve soils.





Use correct seeding rate. Calibrate your seeder prior to planting (see instructions on calibrating forage seeding equipment below). Seeding at too high of a rate needlessly results in higher seed costs. On the other hand, seeding at too low a rate results in weak stands and lower productivity.

Inoculate Legume Seed. This is relatively inexpensive insurance that legume roots will be well nodulated and efficient nitrogen fixation will take place.

Control Seeding Depth. Small seeded forages should never be placed deeper than 1/2 inch. *Placing small seeded forages too deep will result in stand failures.*

Check seed distribution pattern. When using a spinner type spreader/seeder make sure and check your spreading pattern. Single disk spinners often throw more seed to one side if not correctly adjusted.

Control Post-Seeding Competition. Clip or graze the existing vegetation to a height just above the developing seedlings. This must be done in a timely manner to ensure that the competing vegetation does not get ahead of the seedlings. For more information on frost seeding contact your local extension agent or visit Kentucky Forages at <http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage/>.



Spring KY Grazing School- 2 day, intensive and hands-on educational program on how to design and implement a rotational grazing system.

- Held April 25-26, 2017 at the UK Research and Education Center in Princeton, KY.
- Attended by 49 farmers (representing 16 counties), county agents, and industry representatives.
- Participants gained experience with temporary fencing and water systems during the grazing school's hands-on portion of the program. Beef heifers grazed paddocks for 18 hours and the participants were able to see firsthand differences in grazing intensity.
- Additional demonstrations illustrated the proper ways to establish clover in pastures and how to measure the amount of forage available to be grazed.
- Participants were surveyed and asked which management practices they planned on implementing on their farms. All farmers indicated they were going to incorporate changes in their operations. Over 70% of the participants indicated they would implement the following: (1) decrease amount of hay fed by extending the grazing season, (2) use temporary water systems to increase availability of water in paddocks, (3) use temporary fencing to increase number of grazing paddocks, (4) use stockpiled fescue and warm season grasses to extend the grazing season, (5) renovate pastures with clover, and (6) manage animal and forages to prevent animal disorders.
- A fall KY Grazing School will be held on September 27-28, 2017 in Woodford County. This school will highlight the use of warm season grasses and alfalfa along with fall grazing options.



At the KY Grazing School, participants built paddocks to graze 2-4 heifers for 1 day.



Participants learned how to access amount of forage available in a pasture- 2017 Spring KY Grazing School.

Grazing Demonstrations and Associated Educational Programs

- The goal of these demonstrations is to illustrate to producers how to reduce their reliance on stored forages, improve management of forages grazed or harvested, and increase the profitability of livestock enterprises. If appropriate, these educational programs will be divided into 2 sessions, but in some locations sessions 1 and 2 will be combined into one program. During session 1, producers learn about a topic area and see first-hand how to incorporate these practices on their operations. During Session 2, producers will view the results from the practice implemented during Session 1.
- Western KY Grazing Cover Crops Field Day (UK Research and Education Center, Princeton, KY)
 - Session #1, held on November 10th, 2016 was attended by 21 producers and county agents. The program focused on the use of cover crops in a forage program and the effectiveness of planting winter cover crops to extend the grazing season. Demonstration plots with wheat, cereal rye, triticale, annual ryegrass, crimson clover, and various forage combinations have been established for this educational program.
 - Session #2 was held this spring (March 30, 2017) and was attended by 12 producers and 9 county agents. The morning session was held in the classroom with tours of the demonstration plots in the afternoon. Participants discussed how to manage spring grazing systems using wheat, cereal rye, triticale, and crimson clover. In addition, discussions centered around determining forage yields to determine animal stocking rates and how to use these annuals in a pasture renovation plan. Four sessions were recorded and are [available for viewing on-line](#).



Discussion on grazing cover crops at the "Cover Crop Field Day" at the UKREC in Princeton KY

- Improving Pastures with Clover- Eastern KY Demonstration

- A demonstration area was planted on a producer farm in each of Powell, Wolfe, and Jackson Counties in Eastern KY during the month of February to demonstrate proper establishment techniques for frost seeding red clover into pastures. Later in the crop year, percentage of clover established in these stands will be measured. Field days are planned for later in the year to illustrate how to improve pastures with clover.

- Jackson Co. (Producer- Gary Dale Tiller): Within this 8-acre field, 4 acres was mowed to a forage residue height of 3 inches before frost seeding and the remaining 4-acres was not mowed. For each of the mowed or not mowed areas, half was planted with certified red clover seed and the other half was planted with a non-certified variety of red clover.

- Powell Co (Producer- Dewey Hollon): The entire 4 acres was mowed prior to frost seeding clover with half frost seeded with certified red clover and the remaining half seeded with a non-certified variety.

- Wolfe Co (Producer- Reese Graham): Grazing cattle were used to reduce forage residue and the acreage was frost seeded using either certified versus non-certified red clover seed.



Powell County Ag Agent, Lawrence Caudle, pointing out established clover in pasture.

- Madison County Forage Workshop (Producer: John Thomas): A demonstration field was seeded to a novel endophyte fescue, Texamo Max Q II. An evening program to discuss the establishment and grazing management practices is planned for August 15th.