

# Master Grazer Program Third 4-Month Report 2018 (September- December 2018)

## Master Grazer Website and Promotion

The Master Grazer website continues to be the program's main source for science-based, timely articles specifically related to grazing programs for all ruminant species. Updates and archived materials found on this site allow the user to locate information on how to incorporate improvements into their grazing practices.

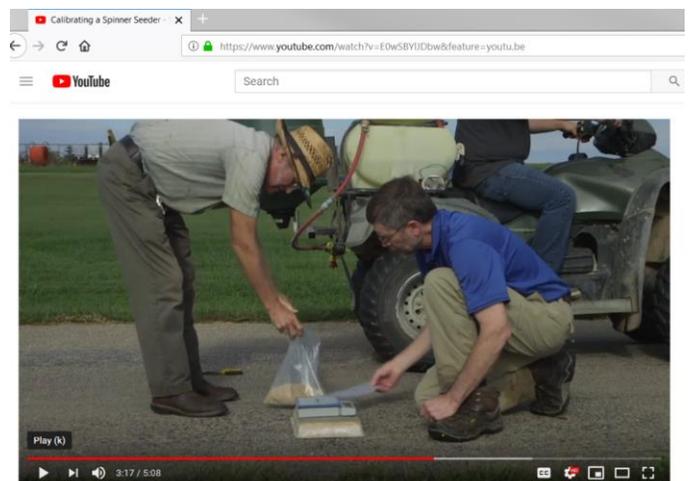


**Materials added to the Master Grazer Website:** The following newsletter articles or videos were added to the Master Grazer Website this reporting period, September thru December 2018. These additions complete benchmarks established at the start of this granting cycle for 2018.

- **Articles:** Five new articles were added.
  - ✓ Does Low Lignin Alfalfa Make Sense for KY Producers
  - ✓ Strategies for Repairing Pugged Pastures
  - ✓ Hay Testing: Figuring Out What You Have and What To Do With It
  - ✓ Drought Proofing Your Grazing System
  - ✓ Getting a Grazing Plan Together

These 5 articles are in addition to 4 other articles added previously this year, thus fulfilling the benchmark of 8 articles this year.

- **Master Grazer Videos- Social media presence:** Two videos were made during this quarter and uploaded to the Master Grazer Website.
  - ✓ Calibrating a Spinner Seeder
  - ✓ Value of Improved Clover Varieties
  - ✓ Previously discussed video, "Nutritional Importance of Forage Quality", has been edited and loaded to the Master Grazer Website.



Calibrating a Spinner Seeder

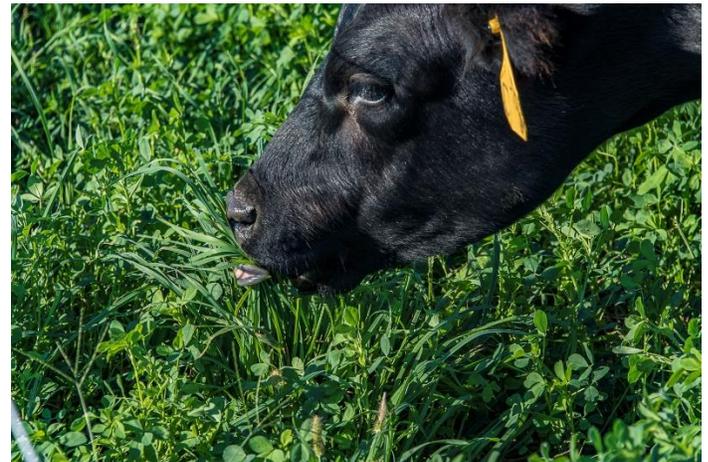
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**Fall Kentucky Grazing School**

- This two-day, hands-on school was held on September 25-26, 2018 with an attendance of 48 producers, students and allied industry personnel.
- We continue to receive very positive comments regarding the material presented and participants indicated they increased their knowledge base related to grazing management practices.
- This school included the field demonstrations outlined below.

a. Demonstrating grazing

alfalfa/orchardgrass pastures: During the school, participants were divided into 8 different groups and each group built a small paddock using temporary fencing and water for 3 beef heifers grazing for 18 hours. Alfalfa /orchardgrass pastures are not traditionally grazed as farmers believe that alfalfa is harder to manage from both a cattle and forage perspective. To prepare this field at the proper stage of maturity for grazing during the school, this field has been grazed



every 28 days. The grazing interval was altered slightly with an additional grazing occurring to ensure the pasture growth would be ideal for the field exercise during the school. Grazing alfalfa is under utilized and this exercise teaches participants how to properly graze this legume.

- b. Demonstration of warm season annual forages for grazing: On the second week of July, a warm season annual demonstration plot was planted using a no-till drill and included Red River Crabgrass, Tifleaf III Pearl Millet, AF7401 Dwarf Sorghum, ProMax Sudangrass, BMR Surpass Sorghum, and Non BMR Highgain Sorghum. Half of each strip of forage was harvested at a height of 8 inches and then allowed to regrow. The remainder was allowed to mature. Participants could see each of these crops and a discussion took place on how to utilize them in a summer grazing program when cool season crops do not grow.
- c. Demonstration plot with cool season annual forages: In the middle of August, a cool season annual plot was planted with a no-till drill. Forages planted include Persik Oats, Elbon Rye, Byron Triticale, Wheat, Appin Forage Turnip, Marshall Annual Ryegrass, and 2 mixtures of these forages. These crops can be incorporated into a late fall/early spring grazing program to extend forages available for grazing.
- d. No-till Drill Calibration: At the school, a demonstration on how to calibrate a no-till drill was presented.