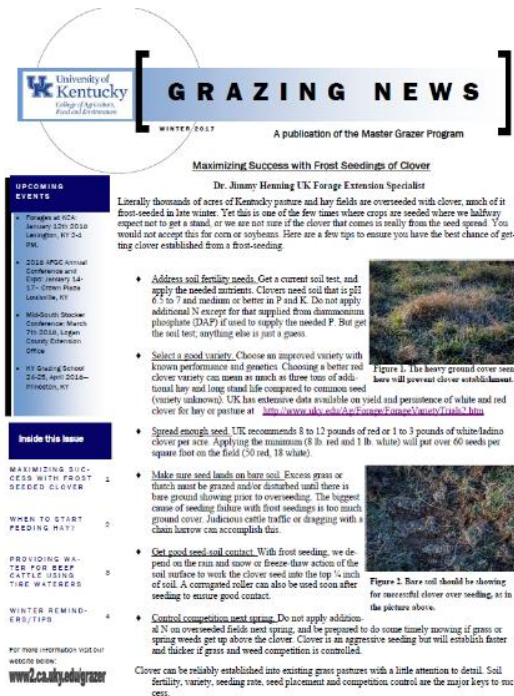


Master Grazer Program Third 4-Month Report 2017 (September-December 2017)

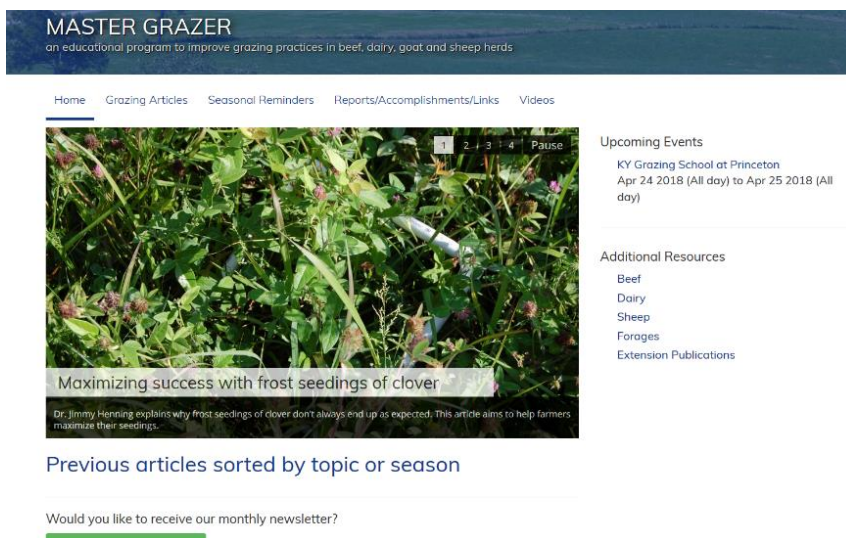
UK Grazing News: Newsletter

- One Issue of *UK Grazing News* was published in December. This issue focused on management practices pertaining to the winter season. The newsletter was 4 pages with content written by Dr. Jimmy Henning, Dr. Jeff Lehmkuhler, and Dr. Steve Higgins. The issue discussed how to handle winter hay feeding, utilizing tire waterers for rotational grazing, and pasture management for the coming spring. In addition, two sections focused on general reminders for winter management and some tips for keeping water available for livestock in freezing temperatures.
- The newsletter was sent to all UK Agriculture and Natural Resource Extension agents located in all 120 counties in Kentucky. These extension agents utilize information provided in their local newsletters, various workshops, and field days to further educate local farmers.
- In addition to the agents, the newsletter is also sent electronically to 405 subscribers. Physical copies of the newsletter were mailed to 198 individuals who requested a printed copy of the publication.



Master Grazer Website and Promotion

- The Master Grazer website was migrated to a [new web location](#) and reworked using an updated site platform. Our hope is this layout will improve the ability to view our educational materials with mobile devices. In addition, a category system was added so that users can view articles by either a selected season or topic area.
- New content continues to be added to the website as we publish newsletters. Along with these additions, we have added a new instructional video to demonstrate no-till drill calibration. The video was authored by Dr. Chris Teusch.



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Kentucky Grazing School- Versailles KY

- A 2 day, intensive and hands-on educational program on how to design and implement a rotational grazing system.
- The event was held on the 27th and 28th of September 2017 at the Woodford County extension office in Versailles as well as the C. Oran Little Research Center.
- Attended by 41 farmers from Kentucky and Virginia representing 3,502 acres of farm land and 1,165 animals. An additional 6 extension and NRCS personnel attended. These individuals utilize the information obtained from our programs to further educate and help farmers throughout the state.
- Participants represented 14 counties in KY and 1 county in Virginia.
- The majority of participants planned to make changes to their grazing system following completion of the program. 70% or more participants plan to make changes to the following : *Use Rotational Grazing Instead of Continuous, Soil Test Pasture Fields, Apply Lime and Fertilizer According to Soil Tests, Design my Grazing Paddocks to Provide Ready Access to Shade, Design my Watering System to Provide Ready Access to any Grazing Paddock, Use Temporary Electric Fencing to Create More Grazing Paddocks.*
- Before and after the program participants listed their knowledge level of each of the discussions and hands on sessions on a scale of 1-5 with 5 being the highest knowledge level. After the program, all individuals indicated that the school had increased their level of understanding in every session that was conducted. Overall, we saw roughly a 2 program.
- Starter temporary fence kits were distributed to participants at the end of the second day of the program. The kits included 10 step-in posts, one roll of polywire, one reel, and one insulator handle. Our goal was to increase and expand adoption rate of managed grazing practices, if they had the tools available to them upon return



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from the school. We asked those who received the kits if they had utilized them a month after the conclusion of the Fall Grazing School. We received a 50% response rate on the questionnaire and of those responding, every respondent stated that they had utilized or planned on utilizing the kit provided.

Advanced Grazing Schools

- Efforts were placed on the second grazing school rather than the Advanced Grazing School this year. It allowed us to cover more of the state with the grazing schools while allowing for greater training of NRCS staff as well as producers across the state.

Cost Share No-Till Drill Calibration Decals

- To further promote correctly using no-till drills for reseeding pastures, Dr. Chris Teutsch has designed a step-wise set of directions on how to calibrate a no-till drill. These directions will be printed on a decal that can be affixed to cost-share drills located throughout the state. Additional decals will be distributed so farmers can attach them to their privately owned drills. These decals will be printed and distributed at the start of next year.

Field Days & Other Demonstrations

- Frost seeded clover demos in EKY: the 3 farms (Wolfe, Jackson, and Powell County) previously seeded in February of this year are continuing to be monitored and a field day is being planned for May 2018.
- Lengthening the Grazing Season: 2 sessions were held this year and another focusing on a grazing dairy in western Kentucky is being planned for this coming spring 2018. The first two sessions focused on forage establishment in the fall and winter survivability as well as early spring grazing potential.

Educational Opportunities Planned for 2018

- We are currently making arrangements for a grazing school this spring. The school will be hosted in Princeton, KY on the 24th and 25th of April. We plan to have up to 50 participants and our focus for this school will be rotational grazing centered around spring/summer management strategies.
- As previously mentioned we are also planning a grazing dairy field day in western Kentucky.
- A second KY Grazing School is planned for the fall of 2018 with dates and focus to be later announced.