

Master Grazer Program

Second 4-Month Report 2018

(May- August 2018)

Upcoming Fall KY Grazing School (September 25-26, 2018) Woodford Co.:

- The fall 2018 KY Grazing School will be held in Woodford Co. Attendance at this time looks to be at capacity (maximum of 45 participants). People registered are first time participants to this program. The Master Grazer UK faculty have spent the last 3 months planning this educational program and planting and managing a number of demonstrations for the participants to view various agronomic practices and forages for grazing.

- These field demonstrations are outlined below.

a. Demonstrating grazing

alfalfa/orchardgrass pastures: During the school, participants will be divided into 8 different groups and each group will build 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 28days. The grazing interval was altered slightly with an additional grazing occurring to ensure the pasture growth would be ideal to demonstrate the field exercise for 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 to a height of 8 inches and allowed to regrow. The remainder was allowed to mature.
- 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.
- d. No-till Drill Calibration: At the school, we will have a demonstration on how to calibrate a no-till drill.



Participant (Jamie Barnes) puts into practice what she learned at the 2018 Spring KY Grazing School

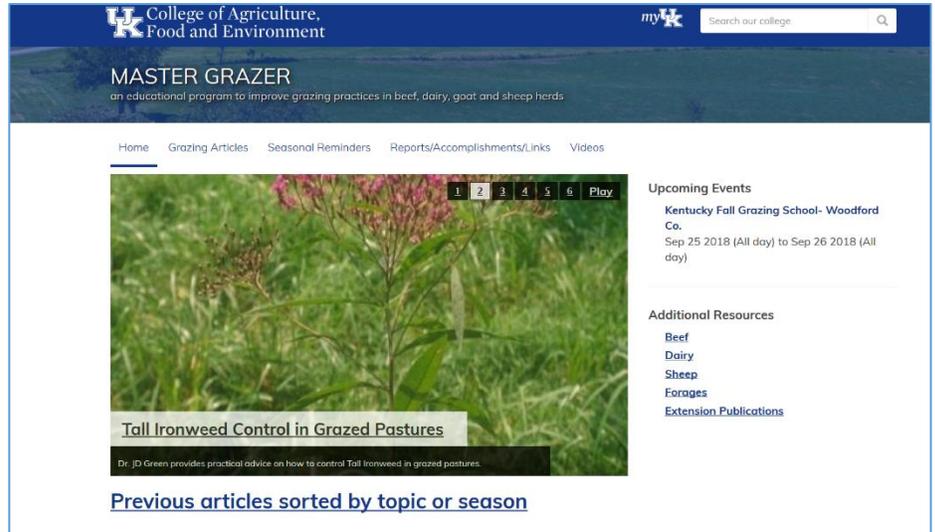
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Master Grazer Website and Promotion

- The Master Grazer website continues to be the program’s source for science-based, timely articles specifically related to grazing programs for all ruminant species. Updates to this site allow the user to locate information on how to incorporate improvements in 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.

- Installing Tire Water Tanks for Watering Livestock (UK video)
- Tall Ironweed Control in Grazed Pastures
- Thin Grass Stands Causes and Remedies
- Maximizing Success with Frost Seedings of Clover

Master Grazer Video—“Nutritional Importance of Forage Quality”

- Over the summer, Master Grazer intern Haley Zynda, wrote, edited and then produced a video on the nutritional importance of forage quality. Currently, the final touches are being incorporated into this video with an anticipated release date later this fall/early winter.



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Field Days & Other Demonstrations

- Western KY Dairy Pasture Walk Demonstrations and Educational Activities- The Master Grazer program continued contact with dairy producers regarding using grazed forages as a primary forage source for their milking herd. These contacts continue to help improve forage stands and availability of forages for grazing dairy milking herds.
- Frost seeded clover demos in Eastern KY: This summer, the three clover demonstration plots from 2016 were revisited and reassessed regarding percentage of the stand currently occupied by red clover plants. Results are currently being summarized. But, one observation noted was the impact management has on maintaining red clover stands. One site had very good clover stands at establishment, but due to competition from the grass stand, clover was virtually non-existent. Management practices greatly influence forage stands and may be as, if not more important, than establishment practices.
- Summer Interns Characterize Pastures Fescue Endophyte Status: County-funded summer interns in Henry and Marion Counties worked with University of Kentucky personnel to learn how to characterize the species in pasture as well as endophyte percentage and ergovaline concentrations in tall fescue.



As a result of this educational effort:

- Two interns learned how to identify common pasture plants and weeds in Kentucky pastures
- Pastures on ten different farms were characterized as to species composition.
- Ergovaline and endophyte percentage were determined for ten farms.
- Interns are developing summary presentations on the results.
- The Marion County intern presented at a summer field day locally.
- The Henry County data will be presented as part of the Kentucky Cattleman's Association Regional Field Day on the Johnny Alison Farm (a cooperator in this project).