

Master Grazer Report: January – April 2019

Master Grazer Website

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.

The site was recently redesigned to provide clear navigation and updated with better graphics.

Materials added to the Master Grazer Website:

The following articles or videos were added to the Master Grazer Website this reporting period.

- Calibrating Grain Drill YouTube video
- Calibrating Grain Drill poster presentation for AFGC
- Forages at KCA 2019 Proceedings
- Calibrating a Spinner Seeder YouTube video
- Value of Improved Clover Varieties YouTube video
- 2019 Novel Tall Fescue Renovation Workshop Presentations
- 2019 KY Grazing Calendar

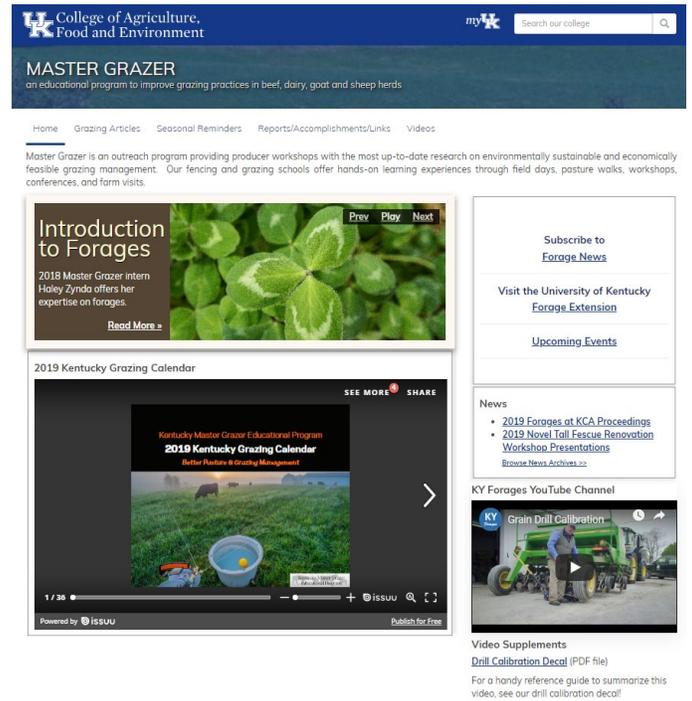
Above materials were also added to the UK Forages Website and KFGC website.

Master Grazer Video - “Grain Drill Calibration Made Easy”

Dr. Chris Teutsch and summer intern, Jessica Buckman, developed a simplified procedure to calibrate a grain drill. This video lead by Dr. Teutsch walks one through the entire calibration process.

2019 Kentucky Grazing Calendar

The Master Grazer Educational Program and UK Forage Extension partnered with Gallagher USA to design and print the first ever Kentucky Grazing Calendar. This calendar provides monthly grazing, weed control, and fencing tips for livestock producers in the Commonwealth of Kentucky and beyond. Two thousand five hundred calendars were printed and distributed to livestock producers around the state.



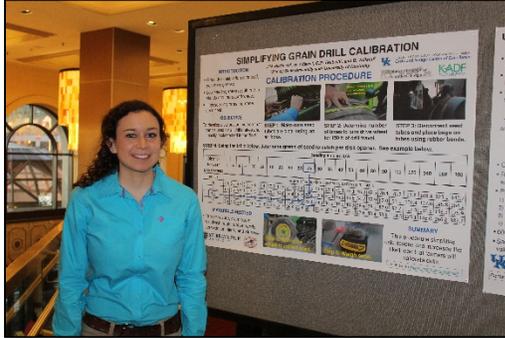
Video Supplements

[Drill Calibration Decal](#) (PDF file)

For a handy reference guide to summarize this video, see our drill calibration decal!



Poster Presentation - “Simplifying Grain Drill Calibration”



Summer 2018 intern, Jessica Buckman, presented her poster, “Simplifying Grain Drill Calibration” at the American Forage and Grassland Council annual meeting in January. Jessica also wrote an article on grain drill calibration for March 1, 2019 issue of the *Progressive Forage Grower*.

Spring KY Grazing School (April 23-24, 2019 in Princeton, KY):

- 30 participants registered for the Spring Grazing School held in Princeton, KY. On the first day, participants worked in groups to install a rotational grazing system then allocated cattle to the paddocks constructed by each group. On the second day, participants observed the grazed paddocks and heard reports from each group.
- Representatives from UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment and Gallagher North America presented a variety of topics including the benefits of rotational grazing, temporary fencing, portable/seasonal water systems, economics of grazing, and rejuvenating run-down pastures. The program also hosted two local producers discussing what works on their farms.



Grazing School Field Demonstrations:



Methods to Assess Pasture

Production: Participants were each provided with a grazing stick, falling plate meter, and clippers. With these tools, the participants were able to calculate the available amount of forage.



Pasture Allocation Exercise: Participants were divided into 6 different groups and each group built a small paddock using temporary fencing and water for 2 beef heifers grazing for 18 hours. Based on their calculations from the previous field demo, participants allocated enough pastures for the two heifers for 18 hours. The following day each group discussed the how close they came to their assigned pasture allocation.



Case Study Farm: Participants were taken to a local farm, given an aerial printout, and tasked with developing a rotational grazing system based on their assigned farm operation (cow-calf, horses, stocker, etc). Each group also determined temporary vs permanent fencing, water sources, and movement of animals. This exercise allowed the participants to use what they had learned and encouraged great discussion with theoretical scenarios and their own on-farm experiences. Grazing school students visited a local farm. Participants were then assigned a specific livestock class and given the task of designing a grazing system for the host farm. Each group presented their grazing system design.



Grazing school participants toured a local livestock farm that was in the midst of designing a grazing system.

Grazing School Survey Summary

Survey data based on 24 returned surveys, a response rate of 92%.

Topic	Very Useful	Useful	Not useful	Did NOT attend
Benefits of rotational grazing	22	2		
Nutritional needs of livestock	20	4		
Grazing math	21	3		
Field exercise-estimating forage availability	21	3		
Field exercise-pasture allocation	22	1	1	
Portable water systems demonstration	18	6		
Temporary fencing systems	15	7		2
Forage plant growth	22	2		
Building a profitable forage program	19	4		
Forage species for grazing systems	21	3		1
Grazing management considerations	18	5		1
NRCS tools and programs	16	7		
Designing a grazing system	23	1		
Grazing management on my farm	21	3		
Case study: designing a grazing system	17	6	1	
Rejuvenating rundown pastures	21	3		

Practices that participants plan to incorporate on their farms:

Rotational Grazing: 18/24

Alternative forage species: 13/24

Temporary fencing: 17/24

Participate in conservation programs: 14/24

Soil testing: 15/24

Comments from Participants:

“very useful for new farmers”, “awesome class”, “very helpful”, “more local producer presentations”, “fantastic value for the cost of the school”

Spring KY Fencing Schools (April 9, 2019 in Lexington, KY and April 11, 2019 in Burkesville, KY):

- Lexington had 33 participants
- Burkesville had 26 participants.

- Through classroom and hands-on demonstrations, the participants learned fence construction basics, Kentucky fencing laws, and electric fencing basics. Participants also ventured to a local farm and install two types of fences: fixed knot high tensile woven wire fencing and electrified smooth high tensile fencing.



Social Media Strategy & Activities:

- All fencing school and grazing school participants are automatically enrolled in the Forage News List Serve. All Master Grazer articles and announcements posted on the list serve are linked back to the Master Grazer Website.
- Events are mentioned in articles or posted in calendars through the following: KyForageNews.com, County Extension Newsletter, OnPasture.com, Cow Country News, and Farmer's Pride.
- Articles, videos, and event announcements are shared through the KFGC Facebook page and the ReGenerative Grazing Facebook group. We will continue to incorporate other groups and pages like the KY Cattleman's Association and County Extension.

On-Farm Demos:

- Two in Caldwell County and one in Trigg County – overseeded with a mixture of red clover, Korean lespedeza, and crabgrass onto closely grazed pastures. (March 2019)



Upcoming Events & Activities:

- Train two summer undergraduate interns – Summer 2019
- Fencing School on May 30 in Russellville, Ky
- Two On-Farm Forage Tours
 - May 14 at River Bend Farm in Cadiz, KY
 - August 6 at D&D Farm in Horse Branch, KY
- Beginning Grazing School
 - September 10-11 in Woodford County
- Two Regional Grazing Conferences
 - October 29 in Central KY
 - October 31 in Western KY

This report was prepared by Rehanon Pampell, Master Grazer Coordinator and Chris Teutsch, UK Forage Extension Specialist.