

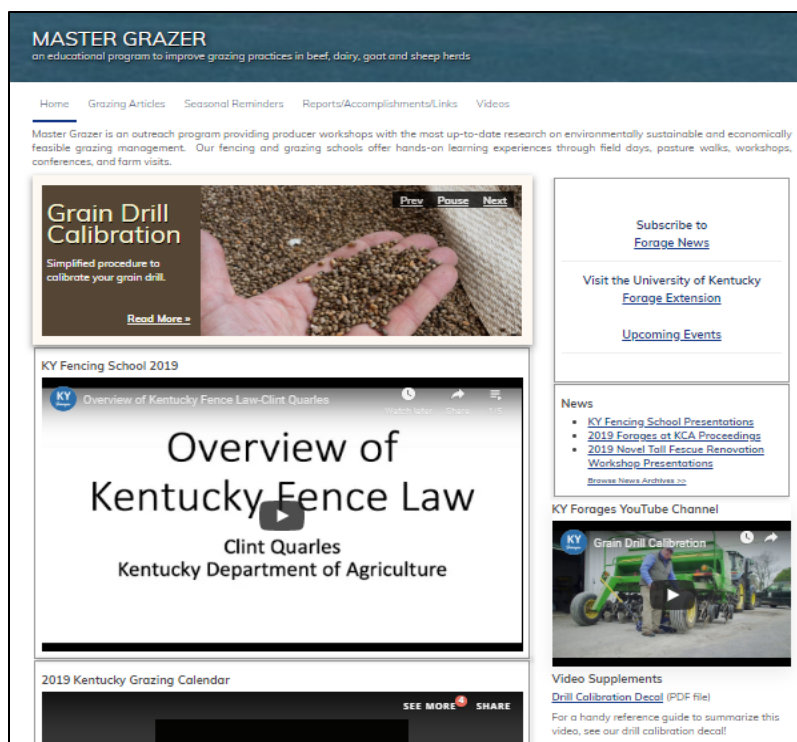
Master Grazer Report: May – August 2019

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.

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

- Fencing School Videos
- Using Summer Annuals
- Repairing Pugged Pastures



Master Grazer Video Highlights

- **“Overview of Kentucky Fence Law”**

The topic that received the most discussion was the review of Kentucky Fencing Laws. Clint Quarles of the Kentucky Department of Agriculture dives into definitions, penalties, and liabilities. Participants are always surprised by Kentucky's definition of a 'lawful fence.' They are also shocked to learn the liability when livestock enter unenclosed land or enter through lawful fence.

- **“Kentucky Fencing Schools Help Producers Build Stronger Boundaries”**

UK Agricultural Communications joined the Russellville Fencing School on May 30th to report on the workshop. A local cattle producer, Butch King, said, “I have had the farm for five years, and I’ve just been in a state of repair with my fences. I have been wanting to start doing some fencing, and some of it I know I can do myself. I have been looking forward to seeing some of this and putting it to use at the farm.”

KY Spring Fencing School – May 30th in Russellville, KY

- Through classroom and hands-on demonstrations, **31 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.
- UK Agricultural Communications joined the Russellville Fencing School on May 30th to report on the workshop.



Brace building and post driving demonstrations were held at the 2019 Kentucky Fencing Schools.

Fencing School Survey Summary

Survey data based on 27 returned surveys, a response rate of 87%.

Topic	Very Useful	Useful	Not useful	Did NOT attend
Fencing Types & Costs	15	10		1
Fence Construction Basics	21	5		
KY Fence Law	23	2		
Electric Fencing Basics	17	7		
Innovations in Fencing Technologies	13	9	2	
Safety, Fence Layout, Post Driving Demo	14	2		
H-Brace Construction	15	2		
Knot Tying, Splices, Insulator Installation	15	2		
Installation of Stay-Tuff Fixed Knot Fence	15	2		
Installation of High Tensile Fencing	15	2		

Kentucky Fencing Schools help producers build stronger boundaries



Butch King, Kentucky Fencing School participant, participates in a on-site fence construction demonstration in Logan County. Photo by Katie Pratt, UK agricultural communications.

To view the video, click [here](#).

June 11, 2019 | By: Katie Pratt

Russellville, Ky., -Livestock producers know a well-constructed fence can minimize a lot of management headaches. A University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment school is helping producers learn how to improve their fences.

The Kentucky Fencing Schools are one-day events organized by Chris Teutsch, UK forage extension specialist, and are in high demand, with each of this year's three regional schools exceeding initial capacity. Through a mixture of classroom instruction and hands-on demonstrations, UK specialists and fencing industry experts teach producers from across the region the basics of a well-built fence.

"If you have ever driven around the countryside, there are a lot of fences but not a lot of well-constructed ones," Teutsch said. "One of the goals of this school is to help people get the basics of fencing down. That way they can build a strong, durable fence that will last 25 or 30 years or if they decide to hire a contractor to build it for them, at least know what a well-constructed fence looks like."

An added bonus of the school is that the techniques producers learn are ones that can help them qualify for cost-share dollars from the Natural Resources and Conservation Service for new fence construction.

The Fencing School is just one of the numerous UK forage- and livestock-related programs that Logan County cattle producer Butch King has attended since he began farming five years ago after retiring from the military. He said each event has been a positive learning experience for him.

“There’s always more information than you can ever use in a year, but I like coming here and talking to other people,” he said. “I always try to target four or five different things that I can go back and evaluate in my operation.

He attended the fencing school, because he’s interested in improving his current system.

“I have had the farm for five years, and I’ve just been in a state of repair with my fences,” King said. “I have been wanting to start doing some fencing, and some of it I know I can do myself. I have been looking forward to seeing some of this and putting it to use at the farm.”

Logan County is home to many livestock producers like King. Knowing there was a local desire and interest for educational programing like this in her county, Leann Martin, the county’s agriculture and natural resources agent with the UK Cooperative Extension Service, was happy to co-host the school with the Logan County Cattlemen’s Association.

“Fence construction is something that tends to be passed down through generations, but there are a lot of different things to consider, especially on the law end of it, and there are new techniques and new technologies out there to make it easier,” Martin said. “We have producers that are wanting to learn, wanting to grow and wanting to improve their overall land and products.”

Gallagher USA, ACI Equipment Distributors and Stay-Tuff Fencing are integral industry partners for the schools. Additional sponsors are the Kentucky Master Grazer Program and the Kentucky and Forage Grassland Council.

UK forage extension will host the Kentucky Fencing Schools again next year.

Writer: Katie Pratt, 859-257-8774

UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment through its land-grant mission, reaches across the commonwealth with teaching, research and extension to enhance the lives of Kentuckians.

Western KY Forage Field Day at D&D Farm, Horse Branch, KY

167 people from KY, TN, MN, IN, and OH visited the D&D farm in Horse Branch, KY on August 6th to view the farm in various stages of renovation. Participants saw improvements that have been made, improvements that are being implemented, and learned about future plans. The tour featured open discussions on various approaches to restoring the productivity of neglected farms.



Bub and Lakayah Daugherty hosted the 2019 Western Kentucky Summer Forage Tour.

Pre-Tour Grain Drill Calibration

Demonstration - Grain drill calibration is a critical and often ignored part of forage establishment. The UK Forages group has designed a simple calibration method that can be applied across all drill types and involves limited mathematical calculations.

Novel Endophyte Tall Fescue - Novel endophyte tall fescue offers the animal performance of endophyte free tall fescue coupled with the increased persistence under stressful conditions. It should be managed under rotational stocking to maximize production and persistence.

Weed Control in Pastures - Weed control in pastures requires an integrated approach that involves soil fertility, species selection, grazing management, and the use of herbicides for difficult to control weeds. This stop featured the use of two very effective broad spectrum herbicides from Corteva Agriscience, GrazonNext HL and PastureGard HL.

Summer Annual Grasses - Summer annual grasses such as pearl millet and sorghum-sudangrass can provide high quality grazing during the summer months and be used as a “transition” forage in pasture renovations. This stop featured seven summer annual varieties from three seed suppliers.



Chris Teutsch, UK Forage Specialist and Jesse Ramer, Ramer Seeds, discuss the use of summer annual grass in grazing systems. In the background, a crabgrass variety demonstration can be seen.

Crabgrass as a Forage - Crabgrass is commonly considered a weed, but it can provide high quality summer grazing when properly managed. It is a warm-season annual that acts like a perennial through prolific reseeding. This stop featured four crabgrass varieties from two seed suppliers. These varieties were seeded in combination with annual lespedeza and red clover.

Rehabilitation of Hay Feeding Areas - Hay feeding areas that are disturbed during the winter months are both unproductive and eye sores the following season if they are not properly renovated. This stop featured a hay feeding area that was disked and overseeded with a complex mixture of summer annual forages (11 species). Seeding forage species that are competitive during the summer months will help to limit weed growth.

Watering Systems and Grazing Management - Managed grazing cannot be implemented without properly designed watering systems. This stop featured a watering system installed as part of a cost-share project with the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Bud and Lakayah will discuss how this watering system has played a pivotal role in the evolution of their grazing management.

Eastern KY Forage Field Day at Loretto Motherhouse Dram, Nerinx, KY

63 people attended the field day held at Loretto Motherhouse Farm in Nerinx, KY on August 24th. The field featured improved forage management practices implemented by farm manager Cody Rakes. The stops featured the following topics:

Stockpiling for Winter Grazing- Ray Smith, UK Forage Specialist, discussed opportunities for extending the grazing season focusing primarily on stockpiling cool-season grasses for winter grazing. He discussed how to optimize stockpile growth and approaches to maximizing utilization.

Crabgrass as a Forage – Although crabgrass is commonly considered a weed, it can provide high quality summer grazing and hay when properly managed. UK Forage Specialist, Chris Teutsch discussed utilizing crabgrass as both grazed and conserved forage. This stop featured an improved variety of crabgrass from Dalrymple Farms that had been managed for hay. Including crabgrass in mixtures with other summer annual grasses



Chris Teutsch discussing the use of crabgrass as forage during the 2019 Eastern Kentucky Summer Forage Tour.

such as sorghum-sudangrass and pearl millet was also discussed.

Making High Quality Baleage – Making high quality dry hay in the spring can be a challenge due to poor curing conditions, heavy hay yields, and excessive rainfall. Conserving these early cuttings as baleage allows for timely cutting and baling resulting in higher quality conserved forage. Jimmy Henning, UK Forage Specialist, discussed best management practices that are essential for making high quality baleage. These practices included timely cutting, wilting to the proper moisture, and excluding oxygen by putting on 6-8 layer of silage film.

Grazing Summer Annual Mixtures – Warm-season annual grasses and legumes such as pearl millet, sorghum-sudangrass, soybeans, and cowpeas can provide high quality grazing during the summer months. This stop featured a complex mixture of summer annual grasses and legumes that were being grazed by cattle being finished on an all forage diet. Cody Rakes and Chris Teutsch discussed the forage species in the mixture and the associated animal performance. They also demonstrated the use of temporary electric fencing to optimize pasture utilization and prevent back grazing.



Cody Rakes discussing strip grazing summer annuals with temporary electric fencing.

Watering Systems and Grazing Management - Managed grazing cannot be implemented without properly designed watering systems. Cody Rakes discussed how he designed his watering system with flexibility in mind. He then demonstrated the use of temporary watering points and troughs.

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 Demo and Field Day: River Bend Farm, Cadiz, KY

This spring, Graham Cofield, extension agent in Trigg County started to work with Alana Baker-Dunn and her farm crew at River Bend Farms to set up a simple rotational stocking system. This particular cow-calf herd had unrestricted access to 120 acres of pastures. Using temporary electric fencing and a solar charger, Graham and the farm crew installed two cross fences dividing the 120-acre pasture into three 40-acre pastures. They configured the cross fences in a manner that each paddock contained a preexisting water source, in this case a pond. And so, a rotational grazing system was born!

On May 14th, 60 people visited River Bend Farm to discuss the benefits of rotational stocking – improved pasture growth, improved nutrient distribution, improved drought tolerance, and fewer weeds.



Trained two summer undergraduate interns:

- Garrett Hatfield, a sophomore from Iowa State University learned forage sampling techniques, pasture management, and initiated a study evaluating soil temperature at various forage heights.
- Nat Colten, an undergraduate student at the University of Kentucky worked with organic grazing dairies to determine the yield and nutritive value distributions of forage grown during the summer months.

Upcoming Events & Activities:

- Fall Grazing School
 - September 10-11 in Woodford County
- Two Regional Grazing Conferences
 - October 29 in Central KY – Heart of America
 - October 31 in Western KY – Western KY Grazing Conference
- Western Kentucky Fall Pasture Walk

- Pasture walk featuring Jim Gerrish at Dogwood Farm near La Center, KY
- Will feature forages for grass finishing

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