

Proceedings of the 25<sup>th</sup>

# Forages at KCA

*Presented by:*

University of Kentucky  
Kentucky Cattlemen's Association  
Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council  
Kentucky Master Grazer

Friday, January 17, 2020  
Owensboro, KY

C. Teutsch, C. Forsythe, and C. Tarr-Janes, editors





# Foreword

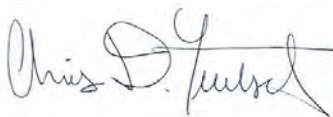
This marks the twenty-fifth consecutive year we have had a Forage Symposium at the Kentucky Cattlemen's Convention. We challenge you to consider the content of the proceedings and the discussions of the day in light of your overall forage program. It is our hope you will go away with at least one idea or practice that you can implement to improve the profitability of your operation.

On behalf of the program committee, I want to thank Mr. Dave Maples and his staff at Kentucky Cattlemen's Association for their support, assistance, and encouragement. In addition, I want to thank the Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council and the Master Grazer program for their support of this session and continued efforts to advance grazing management in the Commonwealth through high quality educational programs. I would like to express sincere gratitude to our speakers for taking time out of their busy schedules to spend the afternoon with us and share their knowledge and insights.

A very special thanks is extended to Drs. Ray Smith and Jimmy Henning for their assistance in planning this program and to Christi Forsythe and Carrie Tarr-Janes for assembling and printing these proceedings.

I encourage you to stay up-to-date with the latest forage research in Kentucky by subscribing to our on line newsletter, Forage News, by visiting [www.uky.edu/ag/forage](http://www.uky.edu/ag/forage). In addition, you will find a wealth of publications and other resources to help you better manage your forage resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris D. Teutsch". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "C" and "T".

Chris D. Teutsch, Program Chair

# Forages at KCA

## *Tall Fescue: Past, Present, and Future*

January 17, 2020

2:00 to 4:00 PM

Owensboro Convention Center, East Ballroom D

### **AGENDA**

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| 1:55 to 2:00 PM | Welcome-Dr. Chris Teutsch, UK Grain and Forage Center of Excellence   |
| 2:00 to 2:45 PM | The History of Tall Fescue-Dr. Garry Lacefield, UK Research and Education Center, Emeritus  |
| 2:45 to 3:00 PM | Tall Fescue Variety Update-Dr. Ray Smith, Plant and Soil Sciences   |
| 3:00 to 3:30 PM | Tall Fescue Toxicosis Research Update-Dr. Michael Flythe, USDA Forage-Animal Production Research Unit                             |
| 3:30 to 4:00 PM | Practical Considerations for Utilizing Tall Fescue in Grazing Systems-Dr. Chris Teutsch, UK Grain and Forage Center of Excellence |

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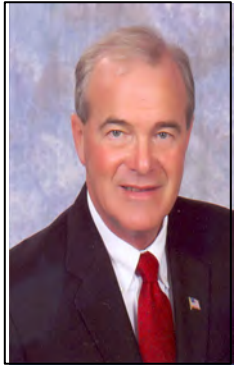
### **Dr. Ray Smith, Extension Professor, University of Kentucky**

Dr. Ray Smith is a native of Georgia and received his undergraduate degree from Asbury University in Kentucky in 1983. After teaching high school biology for two years he entered a graduate degree program in Agronomy and Plant Breeding at the University of Georgia. From 1991-2001, Ray held a research, teaching and extension position at the University of Manitoba, Canada with a focus on alfalfa and native grass breeding, seed production and forage management. He was the Forage Extension Specialist at Virginia Tech from 2001-2004 and is now the lead faculty advisor for the UK Forage Variety testing program coordinated by Gene Olson. It is the largest forage variety testing program in the country. Ray is also the current chair of the Continuing Committee for the International Grassland Congress and past President of the American Forage and Grassland Council. He has published 43 articles in refereed journals, presented 165 papers at professional conferences, written over 120 extension publications, and given over 670 extension presentations. Ray has been the advisor for 16 master's students, 4 PhD's, 5 Post-docs, and 26 senior research students. His current extension activities include working closely with county agents and producers; conducting applied forage research for Kentucky and the transition zone; helping organize state, regional, national, and international forage conferences; and writing applied agricultural publications. His current research projects include: evaluating forage varieties for grazing tolerance and yield, developing forage production systems, pasture evaluation methods, and developing computer and time-lapse photography teaching tools.



### **Chris D. Teutsch, Associate Extension Professor and Forage Specialist at UK Research and Education Center Princeton, KY**

Dr. Chris Teutsch grew up on a small crop and livestock farm in northeastern Ohio. After high school he spent four years in the United States Navy. Following his military service, he participated in an exchange program with Germany. During his year in Germany, he attended agricultural school and lived and worked on a German dairy farm. After returning to the United States, he completed a bachelor's and master's degree at The Ohio State University specializing in forage management. He then moved onto the University of Kentucky where completed a doctorate of philosophy in forage management and physiology. In 2000, Dr. Teutsch was hired by Virginia Tech's Southern Piedmont Agricultural Research and Extension Center where he developed a nationally recognized research and extension program. In January 2017, Dr. Teutsch joined the extension faculty at the University of Kentucky as the new forage extension specialist located at the Research and Education Center at Princeton. Since that time he has developed the KYForages YouTube Channel and initiated the Kentucky Fencing Schools. Dr. Teutsch has received numerous awards for his work with the forage and livestock industry in Virginia and nationwide.



**Dr. Garry D. Lacefield, Professor Emeritus, University of Kentucky**

Dr. Lacefield is a native of McHenry, Kentucky (Ohio County) and grew up on a crop-livestock farm in the Western Kentucky Coal Field Area. After graduation from Centertown High School, he entered the U.S. Army and served 2.5 years in Germany. He received his B.S.(1970) and M.S. (1971) degrees from Western Kentucky University with a major in Agriculture and Biology. He received the Ph.D. degree from the University of Missouri in 1974.

Dr. Lacefield joined the University of Kentucky staff in 1974 as Extension Forage Specialist. He retired from U.K. in March 2015 after a 41 year career.

He has authored and co-authored over 300 extension publications, papers, articles and book chapters. He is co-author of the books "Southern Forages, The Wondergrass and Forages Quotes and Concept." He developed and was senior author of a monthly newsletter and wrote a monthly column for the Kentucky Cattlemen until his retirement. He organized the Kentucky Alfalfa Conference in 1980 and served as Chairman each year. The 35th Annual Conference was held in February 2015.

Dr. Lacefield is a member of many professional organizations including ASA, CSSA, CAST and AFGC. He serves on the Advisory Board of the Oregon Tall Fescue Commission, Oregon Clover Commission, Oregon Orchardgrass Commission and Oregon Ryegrass Commission. He received the Merit Certificate, Medallion and President's Award from the American Forage and Grassland Council, Public Service to Forage Award from the Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council and the U.K. Outstanding Extension Specialist award. He is a "Fellow" in the American Society of Agronomy and Crop Science Society of America. He was selected 1989 Alumnus of the Year by the College of Agriculture, Western Kentucky University. He received the 1991 Alfalfa Extension Award from the Certified Alfalfa Seed Council. In 1992, he received the American Society of Agronomy Agronomic Extension Education Award. He was selected as Progressive Farmer's "1993 Man of the Year in Agriculture". He was inducted into the Western Kentucky University "Hall of Distinguished Alumni" in October 1995. The Certified Alfalfa Seed Council honored him in 2001 with their Distinguished Service Award. In recognition of his leadership in the Kentucky Alfalfa Program, the Public Service to Alfalfa Award was named in his honor in 2000 by the Kentucky Forage & Grassland Council. Dr. Lacefield was inducted as an Honorary Member of the North American Alfalfa Improvement Conference in 2002 making the third Extension Forage Specialist ever inducted. The CSREES/USDA presented him with the 2008 Regional Award for Excellence in Extension and the 2015 Farm Bureau Communications Award. In 2019 he received the National Hay Associations highest award (Haymaker) and the "Voice of the Industry award" from the Oregon Seed league.

Dr. Lacefield serves on a number of state and National boards and committees and is Past President of the American Forage and Grassland Council. Dr. Lacefield has traveled and lectured throughout the U.S. and abroad. During his career he has traveled and/or lectured in all 50 states and 57 countries.

In addition to professional responsibility, he is in demand as a banquet speaker. Garry is married to the former Cheryl Cavender and has two sons, two daughter-in-laws, two granddaughters, and two grandsons.



**Dr. Michael Flythe is the Research Leader of the USDA-ARS Forage-Animal Production Research Unit, which is located on the University of Kentucky campus.**

Michael is a rumen microbiologist and his teammates are both animal and plant scientists. Together they work with researchers at the University of Kentucky and beyond to understand and improve the health and productivity of cattle and other animals that rely on forage. Michael has a Ph.D. in microbiology from Cornell University. He is a member of the American Society for Microbiology, American Society for Animal Science and the American Forage and Grasslands Council.



# The History of Tall Fescue

Dr. Garry Lacefield, Professor Emeritus, University of Kentucky  
[glacefie@uky.edu](mailto:glacefie@uky.edu) or 270 339-2273

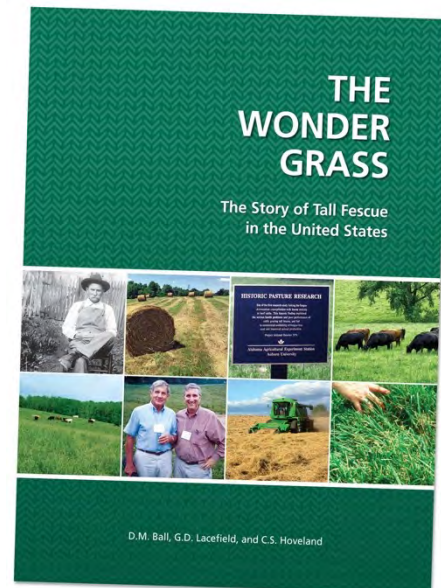
In the first edition of Southern Forages we discussed over 60 different species of grasses and legumes. The only species that was given an entire chapter was Tall Fescue. Since then, Drs. Don Ball, Carl Hoveland and I have discussed the need for and desire to write a practical history of this unique grass. We waited until all three of us had retired before we finally decided to tackle this important project. We knew it would not be an easy task as much of the history has never been documented and available in University libraries. Collecting the materials required visits to Menifee County, visits with county agents, farmers, retired University professors, industry personal, magazine, newspaper articles and many discussions with individuals who had experiences with Tall Fescue over the years. After collecting and assembling information over three years the book was published during the summer of 2019 by the Oregon Tall Fescue Commission. While each person attending today's Forages at KCA will receive a complimentary copy of the "Wonder Grass," the initial News Release is included below with ordering information. From its origins in Europe, its unlikely beginnings in the United States, the controversy surrounding its initial release and issues with fescue toxicosis, "The Wonder Grass" is a fascinating examination of the history and modern uses of forage tall fescue.

The book was written by former Auburn University Professor Don Ball, former University of Kentucky professor Garry Lacefield and former University of Georgia professor Carl Hoveland. It takes a comprehensive look at the species, starting with how in 1893, a farmer in the mountains of eastern Kentucky noticed that a grass on his farm remained green during cooler months when most other plants were dormant and brown. "It was a perennial, it persisted well, and his cattle readily ate it," the authors write of that first discovery of what would later become Kentucky 31 tall fescue.

The authors attribute much of the species' initial popularity to the work of William Johnstone, who served as a University of Kentucky extension agent and statewide field agent in agronomy between 1923 and 1952 and who encouraged its use on Kentucky farms. "It became clear to William Johnstone that tall fescue offered just what farmers needed:: wide adaptation, easy establishment, dependability, a long growing season, grazingtolerance, suitability for use as either a pasture or a hay crop, as well as suitability for stockpiling," the authors write. "Because of these many advantages, it eventually came to be widely referred to as The Wonder Grass."

The authors devote several pages to the controversy that surrounded the original release of the variety. And they take a close look at a subsequent issue, which was given the name fescue toxicosis and which for many years stumped researchers as to why cattle that fed on tall fescue came down with certain maladies, including "summer slump," which resulted in poor weight gain and low reproductive efficiency. In the epilogue, the authors write: "The rich and interesting history of this grass in the United States is unique and multi-faceted, and it explains an important development in American agriculture.....Tall fescue has had an astonishing impact on our nation. It is, indeed, a Wonder Grass!"

"The Wonder Grass" was published earlier this year by the Oregon Tall Fescue Commission. To purchase the book, (\$29.00 which includes postage) go to [www.oregontallfescue.org/wondergrass](http://www.oregontallfescue.org/wondergrass) or call the commission at 503-364-2944.



# Tall Fescue Variety Update

Ray Smith

University of Kentucky Plant and Soil Sciences Department

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Tall fescue (*Festuca arundinacea*) is a productive, well-adapted, persistent, soil-conserving, cool-season grass grown on approximately 5.5 million acres in Kentucky. This grass, used for both hay and pasture, is the forage base of most of Kentucky's livestock enterprises, particularly beef cattle.

Much of the tall fescue in Kentucky is infected with an internal fungus (endophyte) that produces ergot alkaloids and results in decreased weight gains in growing ruminants and lower pregnancy rates in breeding stock, especially in hot weather. Varieties are now available that are free of this fungal endophyte or infected with a nontoxic endophyte. Varieties in the latter group are also referred to as "novel" or "friendly" endophyte varieties, because their endophyte improves stand survival without creating animal production problems.

## Important Selection Considerations

**Local adaptation and seasonal yield.** Before purchasing tall fescue seed, make sure that the variety is adapted to Kentucky, as indicated by good performance across years and locations in replicated yield trials such as those presented in this publication. Choose high-yielding persistent varieties and varieties that are productive during the desired season of use.

**Endophyte level.** Seed with infection levels of less than 5 percent is regarded as endophyte-free. A statement to that effect will be displayed prominently on a green tag attached to the seed bag. If no tag is present, assume the seed is infected with the toxic endophyte. Several varieties, both with and without the endophyte, are adapted for use in Kentucky. With the new "novel endophyte" tall fescues, the seed tag should specify the infection level. Also, seed of these varieties should be handled carefully to preserve this infection, which means keeping seed cool and planting as soon as possible. "Novel endophyte" varieties need a high infection level to improve stand survival. Look for Alliance for Grassland Renewal seed quality assurance printed on each bag of novel fescue seed.

**Seed quality.** Buy premium-quality seed that is high in germination and purity levels and free from weed seed. Buy certified seed of improved varieties. An improved variety is one that has performed well in independent trials. The label also includes the test date (which must be within the previous nine months), the level of germination, and the amount of other crop and weed seed. Order seed well in advance of planting time to assure that it will be available when needed.



# 2019 Long-Term Summary of Kentucky Forage Variety Trials

G.L. Olson, S.R. Smith, J. C. Henning, and C.D. Teutsch, Plant and Soil Sciences

## Introduction

Forage crops occupy approximately 7 million acres in Kentucky. Forages provide a majority of the nutrition for beef, dairy, horse, goat, sheep, and wild-life in the state. In addition, forage crops play an environmentally friendly role in soil conservation, water quality, and air quality. There are more than 60 forage species adapted to the climate and soil conditions of Kentucky. Only 10 to 12 of these species occupy the majority of the acreage, but within these species there is a tremendous variation in varieties.

This publication was developed to provide a user-friendly guide to choosing the best variety for producers based on a summary of forage yield and grazing tolerance trials conducted in Kentucky over the past 12 to 15 years. Detailed variety reports and forage management publications are available from your local county agent or at the University of Kentucky forage website at [forages.ca.uky.edu](http://forages.ca.uky.edu) by clicking on the "Forage Variety Trial" link.

## Species in this Report

**Red clover** (*Trifolium pratense* L.) is a high-quality, short-lived, perennial legume that is used in mixed or pure stands for pasture, hay, silage, green chop, soil improvement, and wildlife habitat. This species is adapted to a wide range of climatic and soil conditions and therefore is versatile as a forage crop. Stands of improved varieties are generally productive for two to three years, with the highest yields occurring in the year following establishment. Red clover is used primarily as a renovation legume for grass pastures. It is a dominant forage legume in Kentucky because it is relatively easy to establish and has high forage quality and high yield.

**White clover** (*Trifolium repens* L.) is a low-growing, perennial pasture legume with white flowers. It differs from red

clover in that the stems (stolons) grow along the surface of the soil and can form adventitious roots that may lead to the development of new plants. White clover is classified into ladino, Dutch, and intermediate types. The intermediate types combine the higher yield of ladino with the grazing tolerance of the Dutch types.

**Alfalfa** (*Medicago sativa*) has historically been the highest yielding, highest quality forage legume grown in Kentucky. It forms the basis of Kentucky's cash hay enterprise and is an important component in dairy, horse, beef, and sheep diets and wildlife habitat. Choosing a good alfalfa variety is a key step in establishing a stand of alfalfa. The choice of variety can impact yield, stand persistence, insect and disease resistance, and grazing tolerance.

**Orchardgrass** (*Dactylus glomerata*) is a high-quality, productive, cool-season grass that is well adapted to Kentucky conditions. This grass is used for pasture, hay, green chop, and silage, but it requires better management than tall fescue for higher yields, quality, and long stand life. It produces an open, bunch-type sod, making it very compatible with alfalfa or red clover as a pasture and hay crop or as habitat for wildlife.

**Tall fescue** (*Festuca arundinacea*) is a productive, well-adapted, persistent, soil-conserving, cool-season grass that is grown on approximately 5.5 million acres in Kentucky. This grass, used for both hay and pasture, is the forage base for most of Kentucky's livestock enterprises, particularly beef cattle. The predominant variety, KY31, was developed in Kentucky for long-term persistence but contains a fungal endophyte that produces alkaloids detrimental to livestock production and reproductive health. Endophyte-free tall fescue varieties produce no detrimental alkaloids, but UK research shows that they are less persistent than KY31. New novel endophyte tall fescue varieties

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contain safe endophytes, which enhance stand persistence but cause no detrimental animal symptoms.

**Annual ryegrass** (*Lolium multiflorum*) and **perennial ryegrass** (*Lolium perenne*) are high-quality, productive, cool-season grasses used in Kentucky. Both have exceptionally high seedling vigor and are highly palatable to livestock. Annual ryegrasses (both Italian and Westerwolds type) are increasingly in use across Kentucky as more winter-hardy varieties are released and promoted. Annual ryegrass is productive for six to eight months when planted early fall (late August/September) and is used primarily for late fall and early to late spring pasture. Perennial ryegrass can be used as a short-lived hay or pasture plant and has growth characteristics similar to tall fescue. It is less persistent than other cool-season grass species. There are both diploid (two sets of chromosomes) and tetraploid (four sets of chromosomes) varieties of perennial ryegrass. Tetraploids have larger tillers and seedheads and wider leaves. Tetraploid types tend to be taller and less dense than diploid types, even in early stages of regrowth.

Diploid types produce more tillers, have better stand persistence, and are typically more tolerant to heavy grazing.

**Timothy** (*Phleum pratense*) is the fourth most widely sown cool-season perennial grass used in Kentucky for forage after tall fescue, orchardgrass, and Kentucky bluegrass. Timothy is primarily harvested as hay, particularly for horses. In Kentucky, timothy behaves like a short-lived perennial, with stands usually lasting two years.

**Kentucky bluegrass** (*Poa pratensis*) is a high-quality, highly palatable, long-lived pasture plant with limited use for hay. It tolerates close, frequent grazing better than most grasses. It has low yields and low summer production and becomes dormant and brown during hot, dry summers. Kentucky bluegrass is best suited for pastures where a dense sod is more important than high-forage production (e.g., horse pastures).

**Festuloliums** are hybrids between various fescues and ryegrasses with higher quality than tall fescue and improved stand survival over perennial ryegrass. Their use in Kentucky is limited because they do not survive as long as tall fescue. Newer varieties show promise where high quality and yield are more important than long-term persistence.

**Bromegrasses** have several advantages over tall fescue, including retaining quality as they mature and better growth during dry weather, but they are generally less well adapted in Kentucky.

Smooth bromegrass (*Bromus inermis* Leyss) is a perennial pasture and hay grass native to Europe. It has creeping underground stems or rootstocks from which the leafy stems arise. Smooth bromegrass is palatable to all classes of livestock, from emergence to the heading stage. Meadow bromegrass (*Bromus biebersteinii* Roem. & Schult) is a native of southeastern Europe and the adjacent Near East. It resembles smooth bromegrass but has only short rhizomes or none at all. Meadow bromegrass is densely tufted and has a similar growth habit to tall fescue. Hybrid bromegrasses are a cross between smooth and meadow bromegrasses. Alaska bromegrass (*Bromus sitchensis*), also called Sitka bromegrass, is a long-lived perennial bunchgrass that will actively grow at moderate rates during the

spring and summer season. It does not spread by rhizomes and is more suited to environments with harsh winters. Prairie bromegrass (*Bromus willdenowii*) is a tall, cool-season, leafy short-lived, perennial, deep-rooted bunchgrass. It was introduced from South America. Seedheads are produced throughout the growing season, and to maintain productive stands for several years, it is necessary to manage at least one growth cycle each year for seed production and natural reseeding. Some prairie bromegrasses are susceptible to winterkill. Mountain bromegrass (*Bromus marginatus*) is native to North America from Alaska to northern Mexico, where it can be found in many types of habitat. It is a short-lived, perennial, cool-season, sod-forming grass.

**Sudangrass** (*Sorghum bicolor* ssp. *drummondii*) is a rapidly growing annual grass in the sorghum family. It is medium yielding and well suited for grazing or hay because of its smaller stem size. Sudangrass regrows quickly after harvest and can be grazed several times during summer and early fall.

**Sorghum-sudangrass** hybrids are more vigorous and slightly higher yielding than sudangrass. A larger stem size makes these hybrids less useful for hay; therefore, they are commonly used for baleage and grazing.

**Forage sorghum** is used primarily as silage for livestock and is typically a one cut crop. It grows 6 to 12 feet tall and is typically harvested when the seed is in the milk to soft dough stage.

**Pearl millet** (*Pennisetum glaucum*) is the most widely grown type of millet. It is well adapted to production systems characterized by drought, low soil fertility, and high temperature. It is higher yielding than foxtail millet and regrows rapidly after harvest if an 8- to 10-inch stubble height is left. Dwarf varieties, which are leafier and better suited for grazing, are available.

**The brown midrib or BMR trait** is outward expression of a genetic mutation in forage sorghum, sorghum-sudangrass, sudangrass, and pearl millet. In most cases, plants possessing the BMR trait contain less or altered lignin, making the plant more digestible and increasing animal production. Therefore, it is

desirable to seed summer annuals that have the BMR trait in addition to other desirable characteristics like high yield. With BMR varieties, the midrib of the leaf appears brown or tannish in color.

**Teff**, also referred to as summer lovegrass (*Eragrostis tef*), is a warm-season annual grass native to Ethiopia and has been used as a grain crop for thousands of years. Recently, there has been considerable interest in teff as a forage crop. It is high quality, palatable, and fine stemmed and therefore makes excellent hay.

**Crabgrass** (*Digitaria sanguinalis*) is a warm season annual which propagates by seed. It is adapted to many soil types. Crabgrass can be utilized by either grazing or haying and is one of the highest quality warm season forages at a vegetative stage.

## Important Selection Considerations

### Local adaptation and seasonal yield.

Choose a variety/species that is adapted to your region of Kentucky, as indicated by good performance across years and locations in replicated yield trials. Also, look for varieties that are productive in the desired season of use. For management recommendations, check with your county Extension agent or see the forage website at [www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage](http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage).

The following comprehensive bulletins may be especially useful:

- Grain and Forage Crop Guide for Kentucky (AGR-18)
- Establishing Forage Crops (AGR-64)
- Rotational Grazing (ID-143)
- Extending Grazing and Reducing Stored Feed Needs (AGR-199)
- Forage Identification and Use Guide (AGR-175)
- Lime and Fertilizer Recommendations (AGR-1)
- Sudangrass and Sorghum-Sudangrass Hybrids (AGR-234)
- Pearl Millet (AGR-231)
- Forage Sorghum (AGR-230)
- Crabgrass (AGR-232)

**Seed quality.** Buy premium-quality seed that is high in germination and purity and free from weed seed. Buy certified seed or proprietary seed of an improved variety. An improved variety is one that has performed well in independent trials. Other information on

the label will include the test date (which must be within the past nine months), the level of germination, and the amount of other crop and weed seed. Order seed well in advance of planting time to assure that it will be available when needed.

## Description of the Tests

**Yield trials.** Plots were seeded at the recommended seeding rate per acre and were planted into a prepared seedbed with a disk drill. Plots were 5 feet by 15 feet in a randomized complete block design with four replications. Grass plots were typically fertilized with 60 pounds of actual N per acre in March, after the first cutting, and again in late summer for a total of up to 180 pounds per acre per season. No nitrogen was applied to the legume trials. Other fertilizers (lime, P, and K) were applied as needed according to the University of Kentucky soil test recommendations. The tests were harvested using a sickle-type forage plot harvester to simulate a spring cut hay/summer grazing/fall stockpile management system. Fresh weight samples were taken at each harvest to calculate percent dry matter production. Management practices for establishment, fertility, weed control, and harvest timing were in accordance with University of Kentucky recommendations.

**Grazing trials.** Plots were 5 feet by 15 feet in a randomized complete block design, with each variety replicated six times. Plots were seeded at the recommended seeding rate per acre and were planted into a prepared seedbed using a disk drill. Grazing was continuous from April to October.

Plots were grazed down to below 4 inches quickly and were maintained at 2 to 4 inches (sometimes less) for the remainder of the grazing season. Supplemental hay was fed during periods of slowest growth. Visual ratings of percent stand were made in the fall several weeks after the cattle were removed to check stand survival after the grazing season and in the spring prior to grazing to check on winter survival and spring growth. Because trials were seeded in

rows, persistence ratings were based on density within a row and not total ground cover. Grass plots were fertilized with 60 pounds of actual N per acre in the spring and 30 to 40 pounds of actual N in early November after cattle or horses were removed from the pasture. Other fertilizers (lime, P, and K) were applied as needed according to the University of Kentucky soil test recommendations. Management practices for establishment, fertility, and weed control were in accordance with University of Kentucky recommendations.

## Results and Discussion

These tables summarize long-term yield and stand persistence data of commercial varieties that have been entered in the University of Kentucky trials. The data are listed as a percentage of the mean of the commercial varieties entered in each specific trial. In other words, the mean for each trial is 100 percent; varieties with percentages over 100 yielded better than average, and varieties with percentages less than 100 yielded lower than average. For the grazing trials, varieties with percentages over 100 persisted better than average, and varieties with percentages less than 100 persisted less than average. Also in the grazing trials, the alfalfa varieties were compared to Alfagraze, and the fescue varieties were compared to KY31+ instead of the mean of all the commercial varieties. In the horse grazing trials, the fescue varieties were compared to KY31- instead of the mean of all the commercial varieties. Direct, statistical comparisons of varieties cannot be made using the summary tables, but these comparisons do help to identify varieties for further consideration. Varieties that have performed better than average over many years and at several locations have very stable performance; others may have performed very well in wet years or on particular soil types. These details may influence variety choice, and the information can be found in the yearly reports. See the footnote in each table to determine which yearly report should be referenced.

## Summary

Selecting a good forage variety is an important first step in establishing a productive stand of forage. Proper management, beginning with seedbed preparation and continuing throughout the life of the stand, is necessary for even the highest-yielding variety to produce to its genetic potential. For more detailed information on yield and grazing tolerance within species, go to individual 2019 reports on the forage website. See below for specific reports. The forage website ([forages.ca.uky.edu](http://forages.ca.uky.edu)) contains all reports from 2001 through 2019.

## Yield and Grazing Tolerance Reports

Individual forage species reports can be found at [www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage/ForageVarietyTrials2.htm](http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage/ForageVarietyTrials2.htm).

- 2019 Alfalfa Report (PR-763)
- 2019 Red and White Clover Report (PR-764)
- 2019 Orchardgrass Report (PR-765)
- 2019 Tall Fescue and Bromegrass Report (PR-766)
- 2019 Timothy and Kentucky Bluegrass Report (PR-767)
- 2019 Annual and Perennial Ryegrass and Festulolium Report (PR-768)
- 2019 Alfalfa Grazing Tolerance Report (PR-769)
- 2019 Red and White Clover Grazing Tolerance Report (PR-770)
- 2019 Cool-Season Grass Grazing Tolerance Report (PR-771)
- 2019 Cool-Season Grass Horse Grazing Report (PR-772)
- 2019 Annual Grass Report: Warm Season and Cool Season (Cereals) (PR-773)
- 2019 Long-Term Summary of Kentucky Forage Variety Trials (PR-774)

## About the Authors

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**Table 4. Summary of Kentucky Roundup Ready alfalfa yield trials 2011-2019 (yield shown as a percentage of the mean of the commercial varieties in the test).**

| Variety             | Proprietor        | Variety Characteristics <sup>1</sup> |                                 |    |    |     |     | Lexington         |     |      | Princeton |     |     | Quicksand | Mean <sup>5</sup><br>(# trials) |
|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----|----|-----|-----|-------------------|-----|------|-----------|-----|-----|-----------|---------------------------------|
|                     |                   | FD                                   | Disease Resistance <sup>2</sup> |    |    |     |     | 12 <sup>3,4</sup> | 15  | 16   | 11        | 13  | 15  | 14        |                                 |
|                     |                   |                                      | Bw                              | Fw | An | PRR | APH | 6yr <sup>6</sup>  | 5yr | 3-yr | 5yr       | 4yr | 2yr | 2yr       |                                 |
| Alfagraze 300 RR    | America's Alfalfa | 3                                    | HR                              | R  | HR | HR  | HR  | 95                | 95  | 101  | 93        | 99  | 93  |           | 96(6)                           |
| Alfagraze 600 RR    | America's Alfalfa | 6                                    |                                 | R  | HR | R   | R   |                   | 99  |      |           |     | 85  | 93        | 92(3)                           |
| Ameristand 405T RR  | America's Alfalfa | 4                                    | HR                              | HR | HR | HR  | HR  | 100               | 101 | 91   | 97        | 100 | 98  | 93        | 97(7)                           |
| Ameristand 433T RR  | America's Alfalfa | 3                                    | HR                              | R  | R  | HR  | HR  | 92                | 98  | 100  |           | 95  | 96  | 107       | 98(6)                           |
| Ameristand 445TQ RR | America's Alfalfa | 4                                    | HR                              | HR | HR | HR  | HR  | 105               | 104 |      |           | 100 |     |           | 103(3)                          |
| AphaTron RR         | Croplan Genetics  | 4                                    | HR                              | HR | HR | HR  | HR  | 99                |     |      |           | 98  |     |           | 99(2)                           |
| Consistency 4.10 RR | Croplan Genetics  | 4                                    | HR                              | HR | HR | HR  | HR  | 101               |     |      | 102       |     |     |           | 102(2)                          |
| DKA-41-18 RR        | Monsanto          | 4                                    | HR                              | HR | HR | HR  | HR  | 100               |     |      | 101       |     | 100 |           | 100(3)                          |
| DKA 44-16 RR        | Monsanto          | 4                                    | HR                              | HR | HR | HR  | HR  | 104               |     |      |           | 100 |     |           | 102(2)                          |
| Stratica RR         | Croplan Genetics  | 4                                    | HR                              | HR | HR | HR  | HR  | 97                |     | 104  |           | 96  |     |           | 99(3)                           |
| Tonnica RR          | Crop Genetics     | 5                                    | HR                              | HR | HR | HR  | HR  | 105               |     |      |           | 101 |     |           | 103(2)                          |
| WL 355 RR           | W-L Research      | 4                                    | HR                              | HR | HR | HR  | HR  | 99                |     |      | 102       |     | 110 |           | 104(3)                          |
| WL 356HQ RR         | W-L Research      | 5                                    | HR                              | HR | HR | HR  | HR  | 100               | 98  |      |           | 96  |     |           | 98(3)                           |
| WL 372HQ RR         | W-L Research      | 5                                    | HR                              | HR | HR | HR  | HR  | 102               |     |      |           | 106 |     |           | 104(2)                          |
| 428 RR              | Allied Seed       | 4                                    | HR                              | HR | HR | HR  | HR  |                   | 99  | 99   |           | 104 |     | 111       | 103(4)                          |
| 54R02 RR            | Dupont Pioneer    | 4                                    | HR                              | HR | HR | HR  | HR  | 97                | 108 | 96   | 104       |     | 102 | 97        | 101(6)                          |
| 55VR06 RR           | Dupont Pioneer    | 5                                    | HR                              | R  | Hr | HR  | HR  |                   | 94  |      |           |     |     | 99        | 97(2)                           |
| 55VR08 RR           | Dupont Pioneer    | 5                                    | -                               | HR | HR | HR  | HR  |                   | 104 | 109  |           |     | 110 |           | 108(3)                          |
| 6516R RR            | NEXGROW           | 5                                    | HR                              | -  | HR | HR  | HR  | 106               |     |      |           | 109 |     |           | 108(2)                          |

<sup>1</sup> Variety characteristics: FD = fall dormancy, Bw = bacterial wilt, Fw = fusarium wilt, An = anthracnose, PRR = phytophthora root rot, APH = aphanomyces root rot. Information provided by seed companies.

<sup>2</sup> Disease resistance: S = susceptible, LR = low resistance, MR = moderate resistance, R = resistance, HR = high resistance. More detailed disease and insect resistance ratings at [www.alfalfa.org/pdf/2019\\_Alalfa\\_Variety\\_Leaflet.pdf](http://www.alfalfa.org/pdf/2019_Alalfa_Variety_Leaflet.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> Year trial was established.

<sup>4</sup> Use this summary table as a guide in making variety decisions, but refer to specific yearly reports to determine statistical differences in forage yield between varieties. To find actual yields, look in the yearly report for the final year of each specific test. For example, the Princeton trial planted in 2011 was harvested for five years, so the final yield report would be "2015 Alfalfa Report" archived in the UK Forage website at [forages.ca.uky.edu](http://forages.ca.uky.edu).

<sup>5</sup> Mean only presented when respective variety was included in two or more trials.

<sup>6</sup> Number of years of data.







**Table 7. Summary of Kentucky timothy yield trials 2000-2019 (yield shown as a percentage of the mean of the commercial varieties in the trial).**

| Variety     | Proprietor/KY Distributor         | Lexington         |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | Quicksand |     | Princeton |  | Mean <sup>3</sup> (#trials) |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------|-----|-----------|--|-----------------------------|
|             |                                   | 00 <sup>1,2</sup> | 01  | 02  | 06  | 07  | 08  | 09  | 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  | 15  | 16  | 17  | 99  | 01        | 00  | 04        |  |                             |
|             |                                   | 2yr <sup>4</sup>  | 3yr | 4yr | 3yr | 3yr | 3yr | 3yr | 3yr | 3yr | 3yr | 3yr | 3yr | 3yr | 2yr | 2yr | 2yr       | 2yr |           |  |                             |
| Alma        | Newfield Seeds/<br>Caudill Seed   |                   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |           | 81  | -         |  |                             |
| Anjo        | Hood River Seed                   |                   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 81  |     |     |           |     | -         |  |                             |
| Aurora      | General Feed and<br>Grain         | 100               |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 98  |           |     | 99(2)     |  |                             |
| Barfleo     | Barenbrug USA                     |                   |     |     |     |     |     | 95  | 91  | 101 |     | 108 | 80  | 97  | 98  |     |           |     | 96(7)     |  |                             |
| Barpenta    | Barenbrug USA                     |                   |     |     |     | 74  |     |     | 82  | 82  |     |     |     |     | 98  |     |           |     | 84(4)     |  |                             |
| Clair       | KY Ag. Exp. Station               |                   | 104 | 113 | 107 | 95  | 107 | 104 | 112 | 99  | 97  | 111 | 107 | 88  | 94  |     | 106       | 122 | 104(15)   |  |                             |
| Classic     | Cebeco International<br>Seeds     | 100               |     | 86  |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 86  |           |     | 91(3)     |  |                             |
| Climax      | Canada Agr. Res.<br>Station       |                   |     |     | 79  | 102 | 104 | 98  | 102 | 100 | 82  | 96  | 90  | 102 | 94  |     |           |     | 95(11)    |  |                             |
| Colt        | FS Growmark                       | 105               |     | 100 | 90  |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 112 |           | 99  | 101(5)    |  |                             |
| Common      | Public                            |                   | 95  |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |           |     | -         |  |                             |
| Comtral     | Caudill Seed                      |                   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 92  | 92  |     |     |     |     |     |           |     | 92(2)     |  |                             |
| Dawn        | Hood River Seed                   |                   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 101 |     |           |     | -         |  |                             |
| Derby       | Southern States                   |                   |     |     | 112 | 111 |     | 106 | 112 | 108 | 112 | 119 | 123 | 112 |     |     |           | 124 | 113(10)   |  |                             |
| Dolina      | DLF Pickseed                      | 99                |     | 90  |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |           |     | 95(2)     |  |                             |
| Express     | Seed Research of<br>Oregon        |                   |     | 95  |     | 91  |     | 97  | 95  |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |           |     | 95(4)     |  |                             |
| Hokuei      | Snow Brand Seed                   | 103               |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |           |     | -         |  |                             |
| Hokusei     | Snow Brand Seed                   | 96                |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 99  |           |     | 98(2)     |  |                             |
| Joliette    | Newfield Seeds/<br>Caudill Seed   |                   |     |     |     |     | 86  | 89  |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |           | 90  | 88(3)     |  |                             |
| Jonaton     | Newfield Seeds/<br>Caudill Seed   |                   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |           | 84  | -         |  |                             |
| KY Early    | Smith Seed/Central<br>Farm Supply | 102               | 103 | 115 |     |     | 102 |     |     |     | 119 |     |     |     | 115 | 104 | 103       |     | 108(8)    |  |                             |
| Outlaw      | Grassland West<br>Company         |                   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 107       |     | -         |  |                             |
| Richmond    | Pickseed Canada Inc.              | 100               |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 103 |           |     | 102(2)    |  |                             |
| Summergraze | Brett Young                       |                   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 96  |     |     |     |     |     |           |     | -         |  |                             |
| Summit      | Allied Seed, L.L.C.               |                   |     | 112 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |           |     | -         |  |                             |
| Talon       | Seed Research of<br>Oregon        |                   |     |     | 110 | 112 |     | 108 | 106 | 109 |     |     |     |     |     |     |           |     | 109(5)    |  |                             |
| Tenho       | Barenbrug USA                     |                   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 84  |     |     |     |     |           |     | -         |  |                             |
| Treasure    | Seed Research of<br>Oregon        |                   |     |     | 103 | 115 |     | 103 | 101 | 108 |     |     |     |     |     |     |           |     | 106(5)    |  |                             |
| Tundra      | DLF Pickseed                      | 95                |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |           |     | -         |  |                             |
| Tuukka      | Ampac Seed Company                |                   | 94  | 88  |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 91        | 93  | 92(4)     |  |                             |
| Varis       | Mountain View Seeds               |                   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 83  |     |     |     |     |           |     | -         |  |                             |
| Zenyatta    | DLF Pickseed                      |                   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 103 |     |     | 119 |     |     |           |     | 111(2)    |  |                             |

<sup>1</sup> Year trial was established.

<sup>2</sup> Use this summary table as a guide in making variety decisions, but refer to specific yearly reports to determine statistical differences in forage yield between varieties. To find actual yields, look in the yearly report for the final year of each specific trial. For example, the Lexington trial planted in 2012 was harvested three years, so the final report would be "2015 Timothy and Kentucky Bluegrass Report" archived in the UK Forage website at [forages.ca.uky.edu](http://forages.ca.uky.edu).

<sup>3</sup> Mean only presented when respective variety was included in two or more trials.

<sup>4</sup> Number of years of data.

**Table 8. Summary of Kentucky bluegrass yield trials at Lexington 2004-2019 (yield shown as a percentage of the mean of the commercial varieties in the trial).**

| Variety          | Proprietor/<br>KY Distributor | 04 <sup>1,2</sup> | 06  | 07  | 08  | 09  | 10  | 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  | 16  | 17  | Mean <sup>3</sup><br>(#trials) |
|------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------------------------------|
|                  |                               | 3yr <sup>4</sup>  | 4yr | 3yr | 3yr | 3yr | 3yr | 3yr | 3yr | 3yr | 3yr | 3yr | 2yr |                                |
| Adam 1           | Radix Research                | 98                |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | -                              |
| Balin            | Pure Seed                     |                   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 99  | -                              |
| Barderby         | Barenbrug USA                 |                   |     | 94  |     | 101 | 91  | 98  | 87  | 103 | 101 | 103 | 123 | 100(9)                         |
| Big Blue         | Rose-AgriSeed                 |                   |     |     |     | 82  |     |     | 95  |     |     |     |     | 89(2)                          |
| Common           | Public                        |                   | 71  | 66  | 68  |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 68(3)                          |
| Ginger           | ProSeeds Marketing            |                   | 118 | 119 | 114 | 118 | 112 | 107 | 110 | 107 | 95  | 101 | 117 | 110(11)                        |
| Kenblue          | Public                        | 102               | 133 |     |     |     | 96  | 95  | 118 | 95  | 100 |     |     | 106(7)                         |
| Lato             | Turf Seed Inc.                |                   |     | 122 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | -                              |
| Park (certified) | Public                        |                   |     |     |     |     |     |     | 90  | 95  | 104 | 117 | 84  | 98(5)                          |
| RAD-5            | Radix Research                |                   | 103 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | -                              |
| RAD-339          | Radix Research                |                   | 101 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | -                              |
| RAD-643          | Radix Research                |                   | 94  |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | -                              |
| RAD-731zx        | Radix Research                |                   | 87  |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | -                              |
| RAD-762          | Radix Research                |                   | 94  |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | -                              |
| RAD-1039         | Radix Research                |                   |     |     | 118 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | -                              |
| Tirem            | DLF Pickseed                  |                   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 79  | 77  | 78(2)                          |

<sup>1</sup> Year trial was established.

<sup>2</sup> Use this summary table as a guide in making variety decisions, but refer to specific yearly reports to determine statistical differences in forage yield between varieties. To find actual yields, look in the yearly report for the final year of each specific trial. For example, the Lexington trial planted in 2012 was harvested three years, so the final report would be "2015 Timothy and Kentucky Bluegrass Report" archived in the UK Forage website at [forages.ca.uky.edu](http://forages.ca.uky.edu).

<sup>3</sup> Mean only presented when respective variety was included in two or more trials.

<sup>4</sup> Number of years of data.









**Table 11. Summary of Kentucky festulolium yield trials 2001-2019 (yield shown as a percentage of the mean of the commercial varieties in the trial).<sup>1</sup>**

| Variety      | Type <sup>2</sup> | Proprietor          | Lexington           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |     | Mean <sup>5</sup><br>(#trials) |         |
|--------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-----|--------------------------------|---------|
|              |                   |                     | 2001 <sup>3,4</sup> | 2005 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |     |                                |         |
|              |                   |                     | 2yr <sup>6</sup>    | 3yr  | 3yr  | 3yr  | 3yr  | 3yr  | 2yr  | 3yr  | 2yr  | 3yr  | 3yr  | 2yr  |     |                                |         |
| Agula        | MF x IR           | Allied Seed         |                     |      |      |      | 94   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |     |                                | –       |
| Barfest      | MF x PR           | Barenbrug USA       |                     |      |      |      | 105  | 101  | 107  | 119  | 91   | 92   | 92   |      |     |                                | 101(7)  |
| Bonus        | MF x IR           | Allied Seed         |                     |      |      |      | 93   | 46   | 32   | 34   |      |      |      |      |     |                                | 51(4)   |
| Duo          | MF x PR           | Ampac Seed          |                     | 89   | 98   | 99   | 95   | 106  | 103  | 96   | 96   | 83   | 83   | 81   |     |                                | 94(11)  |
| Felina       | (TF x IR) x TF    | DLF Pickseed        | 104                 |      |      |      | 132  | 118  | 134  | 114  | 96   |      |      |      |     |                                | 116(6)  |
| Fojtan       | (TF x IR) x TF    | DLF Pickseed        |                     |      |      |      | 112  | 101  | 124  | 92   | 72   | 94   | 100  | 95   |     |                                | 99(8)   |
| Gain         | MF x IR           | Allied Seed         |                     |      |      |      | 103  | 77   | 52   | 75   |      |      |      |      |     |                                | 77(4)   |
| Hostyn       | MF x IR           | DLF Pickseed        |                     |      |      |      |      |      | 107  | 110  | 106  |      |      | 108  |     |                                | 108(4)  |
| Hykor        | (TF x IR) x TF    | DLF Pickseed        |                     |      |      |      | 133  | 141  | 153  | 131  | 119  | 121  | 112  |      |     |                                | 130(7)  |
| InaMerlin    | MF x IR           | Hood River Seed     |                     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 88   |     |                                | –       |
| Kenfest      | MF x AR           | KY Ag. Exp. Station |                     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 100 |                                | –       |
| Lofa         | (TF x Int) x Int  | DLF Pickseed        |                     |      |      |      | 105  | 107  | 110  | 128  | 112  | 91   | 109  | 110  | 110 |                                | 109(8)  |
| Mahulena     | (TF x IR) x TF    | DLF Pickseed        |                     |      |      |      |      |      | 131  | 109  | 107  |      |      | 111  | 100 |                                | 112(5)  |
| Meadow Green | –                 | Pure Seed           |                     |      |      |      |      |      | 37   | 34   |      |      |      |      |     |                                | 36(2)   |
| Perseus      | MF x IR           | DLF Pickseed        |                     |      |      |      | 132  | 114  | 126  | 123  | 110  | 109  | 105  | 113  | 113 |                                | 117(8)  |
| Perun        | MF x IR           | DLF Pickseed        |                     |      |      |      | 127  | 114  | 107  | 131  | 110  | 102  | 99   | 114  | 114 |                                | 112(8)  |
| Rebab        | (TF x IR) x TF    | DLF Pickseed        |                     |      |      |      |      |      |      | 94   | 77   |      |      |      |     |                                | 86(2)   |
| Spring Green | MF x PR           | Turf-Seed           | 96                  | 111  | 114  | 101  | 113  | 112  | 114  | 110  | 103  | 107  | 92   | 91   |     |                                | 105(12) |
| Sweet Tart   | MF x IR           | ProSeeds Marketing  |                     |      | 88   |      | 82   | 63   | 62   |      |      |      |      |      |     |                                | 74(4)   |

<sup>1</sup> The festuloliums were in fescue trials from 2001-2005 and in perennial ryegrass trials from 2008-2009.

<sup>2</sup> MF = meadow fescue, TF = tall fescue, IR = Italian ryegrass, PR = perennial ryegrass, Int = intermediate ryegrass.

<sup>3</sup> Year trial was established.

<sup>4</sup> Use this summary table as a guide in making variety decisions, but refer to specific yearly reports to determine statistical differences in forage yield between varieties. To find actual yields, look in the yearly report for the final year of each specific trial. For example, the Lexington trial planted in 2012 was harvested three years, so the final report would be "2015 Annual and Perennial Ryegrass and Festulolium Report" archived in the UK Forage website at forages.ca.uky.edu.

<sup>5</sup> Mean only presented when respective variety was included in two or more trials.

<sup>6</sup> Number of years of data.

**Table 12. Summary of Kentucky bromegrass yield trials at Lexington 2006-2019 (yield shown as a percentage of the mean of the commercial varieties in the trial.)**

| Variety    | Type     | Proprietor/<br>KY Distributor | 2006 <sup>1,2</sup> | 2008 | 2010 | 2012 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | Mean <sup>3</sup><br>(#trials) |
|------------|----------|-------------------------------|---------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|--------------------------------|
|            |          |                               | 4-yr <sup>4</sup>   | 3-yr | 3-yr | 3-yr | 3-yr | 3-yr | 3-yr | 2-yr |                                |
| AC Knowles | hybrid   | Agriculture Canada            | 85                  |      | 82   | 102  | 89   |      |      |      | 89(4)                          |
| Admiral    | meadow   | Cisco Seeds                   |                     |      |      |      |      |      | 104  | 108  | 106(2)                         |
| Arid       | meadow   | Mountain View Seeds           |                     |      |      |      |      |      | 96   | 93   | 95(2)                          |
| Bigfoot    | hybrid   | Grassland Oregon              | 108                 | 116  | 105  |      |      |      |      |      | 110(3)                         |
| Canterbury | mountain | Barenbrug USA                 |                     | 79   |      |      |      |      |      |      | –                              |
| Carlton    | smooth   | Pickseed USA                  |                     |      |      | 82   | 95   |      |      |      | 91(2)                          |
| Doina      | smooth   | Barenbrug USA                 |                     | 114  | 108  |      |      |      |      |      | 111(2)                         |
| Fleet      | meadow   | Agriculture Canada            | 110                 |      |      | 109  |      |      |      |      | 110(2)                         |
| Hakari     | Alaska   | Barenbrug USA                 |                     | 85   | 85   |      |      |      |      |      | 85(2)                          |
| MacBeth    | meadow   | Cisco Seeds                   |                     | 136  | 119  | 107  | 116  | 107  | 102  | 111  | 114(7)                         |
| Olga       | smooth   | Barenbrug USA                 |                     | 116  | 101  |      |      |      |      |      | 109(2)                         |
| Peak       | smooth   | Allied Seed                   |                     | 97   |      | 100  |      | 93   | 96   | 87   | 95(5)                          |
| Persister  | prairie  | DLF Pickseed                  |                     | 72   |      |      |      |      |      |      | –                              |
| RAD-BI29   | smooth   | Columbia Seeds                | 96                  | 86   |      |      |      |      |      |      | 91(2)                          |

<sup>1</sup> Year trial was established.

<sup>2</sup> Use this summary table as a guide in making variety decisions, but refer to specific yearly reports to determine statistical differences in forage yield between varieties. To find actual yields, look in the yearly report for the final year of each specific trial. For example, the Lexington trial planted in 2012 was harvested three years, so the final report would be "2015 Tall Fescue and Brome Report" archived in the UK Forage website at forages.ca.uky.edu.

<sup>3</sup> Mean only presented when respective variety was included in two or more trials.

<sup>4</sup> Number of years of data.

**Table 13. Summary of Kentucky sudangrass yield trials 2008-2019 (yield shown as a percentage of the mean of the commercial varieties in the trial).**

| Variety                         | Proprietor/<br>KY Distributor | Lexington           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | Princeton |      |      | Mean <sup>3</sup><br>(#trials) |      |      |         |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-----------|------|------|--------------------------------|------|------|---------|
|                                 |                               | 2008 <sup>1,2</sup> | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018      | 2019 | 2017 |                                | 2018 | 2019 |         |
| All trials are 1 year yields    |                               |                     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |      |      |                                |      |      |         |
| AS9301 BMR <sup>4</sup>         | Advanta Seeds/<br>Ramer Seed  |                     |      |      |      | 118  |      |      |      |      |      |           |      |      |                                |      | -    |         |
| AS9302 BMR<br>(Brachytic Dwarf) | Advanta Seeds/<br>Ramer Seed  |                     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 124       | 104  | 102  | 119                            | 117  | 115  | 114(6)  |
| Enorma BMR                      | Cal/West Seeds                |                     |      | 99   | 94   | 92   | 91   | 83   | 91   | 98   |      |           |      |      |                                |      |      | 93(7)   |
| FSG 1000 BMR                    | Farm Science<br>Genetics      |                     |      |      |      |      |      |      | 101  | 124  | 110  |           |      |      |                                |      |      | 112(3)  |
| Hayking BMR                     | Central Farm Supply           | 111                 | 112  | 91   | 97   | 97   | 96   | 92   | 94   | 90   | 80   | 109       |      | 99   |                                |      |      | 97(12)  |
| Monarch V                       | Public                        | 104                 | 96   | 102  | 97   | 93   | 98   | 110  | 99   | 82   |      |           |      |      |                                |      |      | 98(9)   |
| Piper                           | Public                        | 90                  | 91   | 97   | 94   | 104  | 105  | 89   | 94   | 85   | 81   | 86        | 93   | 86   | 99                             | 88   |      | 92(15)  |
| ProMax BMR                      | Ampac Seed                    | 95                  | 101  | 110  | 115  | 96   | 103  | 100  | 111  | 111  | 106  | 102       | 101  | 96   | 84                             | 87   |      | 101(15) |
| SS130 BMR                       | Cal/West Seeds                |                     |      | 101  | 103  |      | 107  | 106  | 110  | 109  | 99   |           | 93   |      |                                | 97   |      | 103(9)  |
| Trudan Headless                 | S & W Seed Company            |                     |      |      |      |      |      | 118  |      |      |      |           |      | 112  |                                |      | 113  | 114(3)  |

<sup>1</sup> Establishment year.

<sup>2</sup> Use this summary table as a guide in making variety decisions, but refer to specific tables in this report to determine statistical differences in forage yield between varieties.

<sup>3</sup> Mean only presented when respective variety was included in two or more trials.

<sup>4</sup> BMR (Brown Mid-rib) means that a variety has been developed to produce lower amounts of lignin which usually translates into higher quality.

**Table 14. Summary of Kentucky sorghum-sudangrass yield trials 2008-2019 (yield shown as a percentage of the mean of the commercial varieties in the trial).**

| Variety                              | Proprietor/KY<br>Distributor | Lexington           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | Princeton |      |      | Mean <sup>3</sup><br>(#trials) |      |      |         |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-----------|------|------|--------------------------------|------|------|---------|
|                                      |                              | 2008 <sup>1,2</sup> | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018      | 2019 | 2017 |                                | 2018 | 2019 |         |
| All trials are 1 year yields         |                              |                     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |      |      |                                |      |      |         |
| AS6401 BMR <sup>4</sup>              | Advanta Seeds/<br>Ramer Seed |                     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           | 84   |      |                                | 112  |      | 98(2)   |
| AS6402 BMR<br>(Brachytic Dwarf)      | Advanta Seeds/<br>Ramer Seed |                     |      |      |      | 91   |      |      |      |      | 78   | 82        | 67   | 98   | 98                             | 91   |      | 86(7)   |
| AS6503 BMR                           | Advanta Seeds/<br>Ramer Seed |                     |      |      |      |      | 96   | 103  | 90   |      |      |           |      |      |                                |      |      | 96(3)   |
| AS6504 BMR<br>(Dry Stalk)            | Advanta Seeds/<br>Ramer Seed |                     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 105  | 103       |      | 114  | 112                            |      |      | 109(4)  |
| Danny Boy II<br>BMR                  | Dyna-Gro Seeds               |                     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           | 117  |      |                                | 110  |      | 114(2)  |
| FSG 208 BMR                          | Farm Science<br>Genetics     |                     |      | 75   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |      |      |                                |      |      | -       |
| FSG 214 BMR                          | Farm Science<br>Genetics     |                     |      |      |      |      | 99   | 108  | 112  |      |      |           |      | 109  | 111                            |      |      | 108(5)  |
| FSG 215 BMR                          | Farm Science<br>Genetics     |                     |      |      |      |      |      |      | 112  |      |      |           |      |      |                                |      |      | -       |
| Fullgraze II                         | Dyna-Gro Seeds               |                     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           | 100  |      |                                | 108  |      | 104(2)  |
| Fullgraze II BMR                     | Dyna-Gro Seeds               |                     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           | 97   |      |                                | 106  |      | 102(2)  |
| F75FS13                              | Dyna-Gro Seeds               |                     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           | 94   |      |                                | 76   |      | 85(92)  |
| Greengrazer V                        | Farm Science<br>Genetics     |                     |      | 166  |      |      | 122  | 107  | 92   | 103  | 110  |           |      |      |                                |      |      | 117(6)  |
| GW300 BMR                            | Gayland Ward Seed            |                     |      |      | 88   | 78   | 88   | 81   | 73   | 101  | 100  | 98        |      | 79   |                                |      |      | 87(9)   |
| HyGain                               | Turner Seed                  | 104                 | 105  | 118  |      |      |      |      |      | 110  | 127  | 117       | 121  | 130  | 108                            | 121  |      | 116(10) |
| KFSugar-Pro555                       | Byron Seed                   |                     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 110  |           |      |      |                                |      |      | -       |
| MS 202 BMR                           | Farm Science<br>Genetics     |                     |      | 106  |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |      |      |                                |      |      | -       |
| Nutra-King BMR                       | Gayland Ward Seed            |                     |      |      |      |      |      |      | 110  | 108  | 96   | 113       | 118  | 108  | 114                            | 105  |      | 109(8)  |
| NutraPlus BMR                        | Public                       | 106                 | 97   | 94   | 103  | 106  | 109  | 106  | 96   |      |      |           |      |      |                                |      |      | 102(8)  |
| Sordan<br>Headless                   | Chromatin                    |                     |      |      |      |      |      | 105  |      |      |      |           |      |      |                                |      |      | -       |
| Special Effort                       | Public                       | 109                 | 110  | 93   | 94   | 115  | 120  | 91   | 111  |      |      |           |      |      |                                |      |      | 105(8)  |
| SS211                                | Southern States              |                     |      |      | 104  | 93   | 114  | 103  | 118  | 111  | 121  | 118       |      | 109  | 87                             |      |      | 108(10) |
| SS220 BMR                            | Southern States              |                     | 107  | 84   |      | 112  |      |      |      |      |      |           |      |      |                                |      |      | 101(3)  |
| Sugar Graze II                       | Coffey Seed                  |                     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           | 110  |      |                                | 110  |      | 110(2)  |
| Surpass BMR                          | Turner Seed                  | 81                  | 80   | 64   |      |      |      |      |      | 79   | 84   | 75        | 75   | 88   | 97                             | 74   |      | 80(10)  |
| Super Sugar                          | Gayland Ward Seed            |                     |      |      | 102  | 117  | 107  |      | 125  | 85   |      |           |      | 91   |                                |      |      | 105(6)  |
| Super Sugar<br>BMR                   | Gayland Ward Seed            |                     |      |      |      |      |      |      | 107  |      |      |           |      |      |                                |      |      | -       |
| Super Sugar<br>(Delayed<br>Maturity) | Gayland Ward Seed            |                     |      |      |      |      |      | 101  | 82   |      | 89   | 104       |      | 95   | 83                             |      |      | 92(6)   |

Continued

**Table 14. Summary of Kentucky sorghum-sudangrass yield trials 2008-2019 (yield shown as a percentage of the mean of the commercial varieties in the trial).**

| Variety                      | Proprietor/KY Distributor | Lexington           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | Princeton |      |      | Mean <sup>3</sup> (#trials) |        |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-----------|------|------|-----------------------------|--------|
|                              |                           | 2008 <sup>1,2</sup> | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019      | 2017 | 2018 |                             | 2019   |
| All trials are 1 year yields |                           |                     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |      |      |                             |        |
| Super Sugar Sterile          | Gayland Ward Seed         |                     |      |      |      |      |      | 94   |      |      |      |      |           |      |      |                             | -      |
| Super Sweet 10               | Dyna-Gro Seeds            |                     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           | 121  |      | 118                         | 120(2) |
| Sweet-For-Ever               | Gayland Ward Seed         |                     |      |      | 110  | 107  | 81   |      |      |      |      |      |           |      |      |                             | 99(3)  |
| Sweet-For-Ever BMR           | Gayland Ward Seed         |                     |      |      |      | 78   | 70   |      | 77   | 104  | 106  | 83   |           | 77   | 82   |                             | 85(8)  |
| SweetSix BMR                 | Gayland Ward Seed         |                     |      |      |      |      | 93   | 101  |      | 91   |      |      |           |      |      |                             | 95(3)  |
| SweetSix BMR (Dry Stalk)     | Gayland Ward Seed         |                     |      |      |      |      |      |      | 102  |      | 72   | 107  |           | 103  | 108  |                             | 98(5)  |
| Vita-Cane                    | Gayland Ward Seed         |                     |      |      |      | 121  |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |      |      |                             | -      |
| Xtragraze BMR                | Coffey Seed               |                     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           | 79   |      | 70                          | 75(2)  |

<sup>1</sup> Establishment year.

<sup>2</sup> Use this summary table as a guide in making variety decisions, but refer to specific tables in this report to determine statistical differences in forage yield between varieties.

<sup>3</sup> Mean only presented when respective variety was included in two or more trials.

<sup>4</sup> BMR (Brown Mid-rib) means that a variety has been developed to produce lower amounts of lignin which usually translates into higher quality.

**Table 15. Summary of Kentucky pearl millet yield trials 2013-2019 (yield shown as a percentage of the mean of the commercial varieties in the trial).**

| Variety                      | Proprietor/KY Distributor | Lexington           |      |      |      |      |      |      | Princeton |      |      | Mean <sup>3</sup> (#trials) |     |     |  |     |         |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-----------|------|------|-----------------------------|-----|-----|--|-----|---------|
|                              |                           | 2013 <sup>1,2</sup> | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2017      | 2018 | 2019 |                             |     |     |  |     |         |
| All trials are 1 year yields |                           |                     |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |      |      |                             |     |     |  |     |         |
| Epic BMR <sup>4</sup>        | Coffey Seed               |                     |      |      |      |      |      |      | 97        |      |      | 99                          |     |     |  |     | 98(2)   |
| Exceed BMR                   | Coffey Seed               |                     |      |      |      |      |      |      |           | 89   |      |                             |     |     |  | 102 | 96(2)   |
| FSG 300 Hybrid               | Farm Science Genetics     |                     |      |      | 109  | 99   | 109  |      |           |      |      | 117                         |     |     |  |     | 109(4)  |
| FSG 315 BMR (Dwarf)          | Farm Science Genetics     |                     |      |      | 101  | 102  | 81   |      |           |      |      | 97                          |     |     |  |     | 95(4)   |
| Leafy22 Hybrid               | Turner Seed               |                     |      |      |      | 105  | 124  | 108  |           |      | 108  | 115                         | 100 | 116 |  |     | 111(7)  |
| PearlMil                     | Dyna-Gro Seed             |                     |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |      | 103  |                             |     | 110 |  |     | 107(2)  |
| Pennleaf Hybrid              | Pennington Seed           | 93                  | 91   | 94   | 96   | 87   | 98   | 100  | 84        | 93   |      |                             |     |     |  |     | 93(9)   |
| PP102M Hybrid                | Cisco Seeds               | 93                  | 93   | 90   | 79   | 90   | 91   | 97   | 77        | 104  | 95   |                             |     |     |  |     | 91(10)  |
| Prime360                     | Byron Seed                |                     |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |      |      |                             | 103 |     |  |     | 97(2)   |
| SS1562M BMR                  | Southern States           |                     |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |      |      | 103                         |     |     |  | 95  | 99(2)   |
| SS501                        | Southern States           | 90                  | 99   | 96   | 86   | 94   | 94   |      |           |      | 89   | 96                          |     |     |  |     | 93(8)   |
| SS635                        | Southern States           | 108                 | 112  | 101  | 116  | 94   | 110  | 108  | 107       | 115  | 105  |                             |     |     |  |     | 108(10) |
| Sweet Summer                 | Cisco Seeds               |                     |      |      |      |      |      | 86   | 95        |      | 85   | 104                         |     |     |  |     | 93(4)   |
| Tifleaf III Hybrid           | Gayland Ward Seed         | 116                 | 106  | 108  | 116  | 120  | 113  | 119  | 114       | 112  | 111  |                             |     |     |  |     | 114(10) |
| Wonderleaf                   | Advanta Seed/Ramer Seed   |                     |      |      |      |      |      |      |           | 98   |      | 100                         | 107 |     |  |     | 102(3)  |

<sup>1</sup> Establishment year.

<sup>2</sup> Use this summary table as a guide in making variety decisions, but refer to specific tables in this report to determine statistical differences in forage yield between varieties.

<sup>3</sup> Mean only presented when respective variety was included in two or more trials.

<sup>4</sup> BMR (Brown Mid-rib) means that a variety has been developed to produce lower amounts of lignin which usually translates into higher quality.

**Table 16. Summary of Kentucky forage sorghum yield trials 2013-2019 (yield shown as a percentage of the mean of the commercial varieties in the trial).**

| Variety                        | Proprietor/KY Distributor | Lexington           |      |      |      |      |      |      | Princeton |                   |      | Mean <sup>3</sup> (#trials) |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-----------|-------------------|------|-----------------------------|
|                                |                           | 2013 <sup>1,2</sup> | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2017      | 2019 <sup>4</sup> | 2019 |                             |
| All trials are one-year yields |                           |                     |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |                   |      |                             |
| ADVF7232 BMR <sup>5</sup>      | Advanta Seed/Ramer Seed   |                     |      |      |      |      |      | 88   |           | 93                | 84   | 86(2)                       |
| AF7201 BMR                     | Advanta Seed/Ramer Seed   | 89                  | 81   | 101  | 89   |      |      | 94   |           | 74                | 83   | 90(6)                       |
| AF7203 BMR (Brachytic Dwarf)   |                           |                     |      |      |      |      |      | 48   | 70        |                   |      | 59(2)                       |
| AF7401 BMR (Brachytic Dwarf)   | Advanta Seed/Ramer Seed   | 76                  | 94   | 90   | 83   | 86   | 72   | 85   | 116       | 87                | 100  | 89(9)                       |
| AF8301                         | Advanta Seed/Ramer Seed   |                     |      |      |      |      |      | 98   |           | 124               | 85   | 92(2)                       |
| Ensilemaster                   | Caudill Seed              | 125                 | 90   | 101  | 106  | 111  | 129  | 118  | 171       | 77                | 85   | 115(9)                      |
| FSG114 BMR                     | Farm Science Genetics     |                     | 94   | 128  | 93   | 125  | 91   | 76   | 71        | 89                | 79   | 95(8)                       |
| FSG115 BMR (Brachytic Dwarf)   | Farm Science Genetics     |                     | 51   | 31   | 72   | 81   | 74   | 67   | 72        | 60                | 74   | 65(8)                       |
| F74FS23 BMR                    | Dyna-Gro Seed             |                     |      |      |      |      |      | 125  |           | 77                | 76   | 101(92)                     |
| F74FS72 BMR                    | Dyna-Gro Seed             |                     |      |      |      |      |      | 93   |           | 59                | 117  | 105(92)                     |
| F75FS13                        | Dyna-Gro Seed             |                     |      |      |      |      |      | 107  |           | 109               | 84   | 96(2)                       |
| GW2120                         | Gayland Ward Seed         | 117                 | 89   | 113  | 84   | 107  | 88   | 102  | 85        | 98                | 115  | 100(9)                      |
| GW400 BMR                      | Gayland Ward Seed         | 93                  | 79   | 128  | 78   | 91   | 88   | 83   | 42        |                   |      | 85(8)                       |
| GW475 BMR                      | Gayland Ward Seed         |                     |      |      |      |      | 80   | 99   |           |                   |      | 90(2)                       |
| GW600 BMR                      | Gayland Ward Seed         |                     | 107  | 111  | 90   |      | 90   | 100  |           |                   |      | 100(5)                      |
| KFFiber-Pro70FS                | Byron Seed                |                     |      |      |      | 65   | 53   |      | 70        |                   |      | 63(3)                       |
| NK300                          | S&W SeedCompany           |                     | 126  | 110  | 101  | 116  | 135  | 84   | 119       |                   |      | 113(7)                      |
| SD1741 BMR                     | S&W SeedCompany           |                     | 133  | 92   | 103  | 81   | 84   | 95   | 94        |                   |      | 97(7)                       |
| SilageKing BMR (Dwarf)         | Gayland Ward Seed         |                     | 48   |      |      |      |      |      |           |                   |      | -                           |
| SiloPro BMR (Brachytic Dwarf)  | Gayland Ward Seed         |                     |      | 24   | 74   |      | 63   |      |           |                   |      | 54(3)                       |
| SP1615                         | S&W SeedCompany           |                     |      |      |      |      |      |      |           | 164               | 170  | -                           |
| SS1515                         | Southern States           |                     |      |      |      |      |      | 125  |           | 97                | 75   | 100(2)                      |
| SS405                          | Chromatin                 |                     | 188  | 183  | 207  | 138  | 202  | 139  | 160       | 142               | 171  | 174(8)                      |
| Super Sile 20                  | Dyna-Gro Seed             |                     |      |      |      |      |      | 107  |           | 106               | 124  | 116(2)                      |
| Super Sile 30                  | Dyna-Gro Seed             |                     |      |      |      |      |      | 121  |           | 129               | 104  | 113(2)                      |
| TopTon                         | Dyna-Gro Seed             |                     |      |      |      |      |      | 131  |           | 84                | 73   | 102(2)                      |
| XF7203 BMR (Brachytic Dwarf)   | Advanta Seed/Ramer Seed   |                     |      |      |      | 74   | 73   |      |           |                   |      | 74(2)                       |
| 1990                           | S&W SeedCompany           |                     | 121  | 89   | 118  | 125  | 177  | 113  | 131       |                   |      | 125(7)                      |

<sup>1</sup> Establishment year.

<sup>2</sup> Use this summary table as a guide in making variety decisions, but refer to specific tables in this report to determine statistical differences in forage yield between varieties.

<sup>3</sup> Mean only presented when respective variety was included in two or more trials.

<sup>4</sup> This trial was sprayed with an aphicide and the results are not included in the overall mean.

<sup>5</sup> BMR (Brown Mid-rib) means that a variety has been developed to produce lower amounts of lignin which usually translates into higher quality.

**Table 17. Summary of Kentucky teff yield trials 2008-2019 (yield shown as a percentage of the mean of the commercial varieties in the trial).**

| Variety                        | Lexington           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | Princeton |      |      | Mean <sup>3</sup> (#trials) |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-----------|------|------|-----------------------------|
|                                | 2008 <sup>1,2</sup> | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2019 | 2008      | 2009 | 2019 |                             |
| All trials are one-year yields |                     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |      |      |                             |
| Corvallis                      | 81                  | 101  | 91   | 101  | 96   | 100  | 110  | 96   | 102  | 110  | 94        | 112  | 99   | 99(13)                      |
| CW0604                         |                     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 101  |           |      | 97   | 99(2)                       |
| Dessie                         | 99                  | 92   | 96   | 94   | 95   | 97   | 101  | 104  | 105  | 89   | 102       | 87   | 101  | 98(13)                      |
| Excaliber                      | 109                 | 104  | 125  | 108  | 106  | 103  |      |      |      |      | 109       | 111  |      | 109(8)                      |
| Highveld                       | 100                 | 121  | 106  | 101  | 109  | 103  | 102  |      |      |      | 111       | 115  |      | 108(9)                      |
| HorseCandi                     | 99                  | 105  | 89   | 108  | 94   | 97   | 80   | 104  | 82   | 86   | 91        | 84   | 103  | 94(13)                      |
| Moxie                          |                     |      |      |      |      | 94   | 96   | 105  | 107  | 110  |           |      | 95   | 101(6)                      |
| Pharaoh                        | 105                 | 85   | 106  | 106  | 97   | 101  | 93   | 97   | 94   | 102  | 95        | 101  | 107  | 99(13)                      |
| Rooiberg                       | 112                 | 109  | 113  | 108  | 115  | 102  | 88   |      |      |      | 102       | 107  |      | 106(9)                      |
| Summer Delight                 |                     | 91   | 96   | 88   | 93   | 100  | 119  | 101  | 104  | 91   |           | 90   | 99   | 97(11)                      |
| Tiffany                        | 102                 | 93   | 82   | 93   | 102  | 98   | 104  | 97   | 105  | 110  | 102       | 106  | 104  | 100(13)                     |
| VA T1 Brown                    |                     | 99   | 87   | 91   | 94   | 98   | 104  | 97   | 101  | 100  |           | 89   |      | 96(10)                      |
| Velvet                         |                     | 100  | 97   | 98   | 95   | 103  | 95   | 99   | 100  | 101  |           | 94   | 96   | 98(11)                      |
| Witkope                        | 93                  | 101  | 115  | 103  | 101  | 104  | 107  |      |      |      | 94        | 100  |      | 102(9)                      |

<sup>1</sup> Establishment year.

<sup>2</sup> Use this summary table as a guide in making variety decisions, but refer to specific tables in this report to determine statistical differences in forage yield between varieties.

<sup>3</sup> Mean only presented when respective variety was included in two or more trials.

**Table 18. Summary of Kentucky crabgrass yield trials 2016-2019 (yield shown as a percentage of the mean of the commercial varieties in the trial).**

| Variety                        | Proprietor/<br>KY Distributor | Lexington           |      |      | Princeton | Mean <sup>3</sup><br>(#trials) |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|------|------|-----------|--------------------------------|
|                                |                               | 2016 <sup>1,2</sup> | 2018 | 2019 | 2019      |                                |
| All trials are one-year yields |                               |                     |      |      |           |                                |
| Impact                         | Barenbrug USA                 | 107                 | 107  | 108  | 105       | 107(4)                         |
| Quick-N-Big                    | Noble foundation              | 89                  | 85   | 81   | 99        | 89(4)                          |
| Red River                      | Noble foundation              | 104                 | 108  | 110  | 96        | 105(4)                         |

<sup>1</sup> Establishment year.

<sup>2</sup> Use this summary table as a guide in making variety decisions, but refer to specific tables in this report to determine statistical differences in forage yield between varieties.

<sup>3</sup> Mean only presented when respective variety was included in two or more trials.

**Table 19. Summary of Kentucky spring oats yield trials 2015-2019 (planted mid March to early April) [yield shown as a percentage of the mean of the commercial varieties in the trial].**

| Variety                 | Proprietor/<br>Distributor | 2015 <sup>1,2</sup>            | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | Mean <sup>3</sup><br>(#trials) |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|------|------|------|------|--------------------------------|
|                         |                            | All trials are one-year yields |      |      |      |      |                                |
| CCSO-102                | Caldbeck Consulting        |                                |      |      | 95   | 102  | 99(2)                          |
| CCSO-120 (black hulled) | Caldbeck Consulting        |                                |      |      | 106  | 106  | 106(2)                         |
| Common                  | Central Farm Supply        | 89                             |      |      |      |      | -                              |
| Excel                   | Ag. Alumni Seed, IN        | 120                            | 101  | 111  | 107  | 115  | 111(5)                         |
| Haywire                 | Cisco Seeds                |                                |      |      |      | 81   | -                              |
| Jerry                   | Caudill Seed               | 107                            | 93   | 103  | 99   | 95   | 99(5)                          |
| Persik (black hulled)   | Caldbeck Consulting        |                                | 112  | 114  | 127  | 106  | 115(4)                         |
| PST-241                 | Caldbeck Consulting        | 91                             | 86   | 86   | 86   |      | 87(4)                          |
| PST50200                | Caldbeck Consulting        | 102                            | 90   | 87   | 79   |      | 90(4)                          |
| PST50-288C              | Caldbeck Consulting        | 91                             | 102  | 88   | 97   |      | 95(4)                          |
| Reins                   | Ag. Alumni Seed, IN        | 94                             |      |      | 102  |      | 98(2)                          |
| Robust                  | Ag. Alumni Seed, IN        | 104                            | 111  | 117  | 102  | 94   | 106(5)                         |
| Saber                   | Ag. Alumni Seed, IN        | 104                            |      |      | 100  | 97   | 100(3)                         |
| VNK                     | Public                     |                                | 97   | 107  | 101  | 94   | 100(4)                         |
| 021A17815               | Ag. Alumni Seed, IN        | 97                             | 108  | 87   |      |      | 97(3)                          |

<sup>1</sup> Establishment year.

<sup>2</sup> Use this summary table as a guide in making variety decisions, but refer to specific tables in this report to determine statistical differences in forage yield between varieties.

<sup>3</sup> Mean only presented when respective variety was included in two or more trials.

**Table 20. Summary of 2002-2019 Kentucky white clover grazing tolerance trials in Lexington (stand persistence shown as a percent of the mean of the commercial varieties in the test).**

| Variety     | Type         | Proprietor            | 2002 <sup>1,2</sup> | 2004 | 2006 <sup>3</sup> | 2006 | 2008 <sup>4</sup> | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | Mean <sup>5</sup><br>(#trials) |
|-------------|--------------|-----------------------|---------------------|------|-------------------|------|-------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|--------------------------------|
|             |              |                       | 2yr <sup>6</sup>    | 4yr  | 2yr               | 2yr  | 3yr               | 4yr  | 4yr  | 4yr  | 4yr  | 4yr  | 4yr  | 4yr  | 3yr  | 4yr  | 3yr  |                                |
| Alice       | Intermediate | Barenbrug USA         |                     | 59   | 98                |      |                   |      |      |      |      |      |      | 93   | 71   | 91   | 96   | 85(6)                          |
| Barblanca   | Intermediate | Barenbrug USA         |                     | 118  | 91                | 151  |                   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 120(3)                         |
| Canterbury  | Dutch        | Allied Seed           |                     |      |                   |      |                   |      |      |      |      |      | 51   | 93   |      |      |      | 72(2)                          |
| Colt        | Intermediate | Seed Research of OR   |                     | 114  | 134               | 122  |                   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 123(3)                         |
| Crescendo   | Ladino       | Cal/West              | 84                  |      |                   | 72   |                   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 78(2)                          |
| Durana      | Intermediate | Pennington            |                     | 83   | 105               | 103  |                   | 115  | 102  | 107  | 126  | 86   | 81   | 113  | 152  | 107  | 87   | 105(13)                        |
| GWC-AS10    | –            | Ampac Seed            |                     |      |                   |      |                   |      |      | 77   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | –                              |
| Insight     | Ladino       | Allied Seed           |                     |      |                   | 77   |                   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | –                              |
| Ivory       | Intermediate | DLF Pickseed          | 132                 | 142  |                   |      |                   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 137(2)                         |
| Ivory II    | Intermediate | DLF Pickseed          |                     |      |                   |      | 102               |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | –                              |
| Kakariki    | Ladino       | Luisetti Seeds        |                     |      |                   |      |                   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 110  | –                              |
| Kopu II     | Intermediate | Ampac Seed            |                     |      | 77                | 122  | 96                |      | 93   | 113  | 112  | 86   | 106  | 93   | 87   | 95   |      | 98(11)                         |
| KY Select   | Intermediate | KY Agr Ex. Sta.       |                     |      |                   |      |                   | 105  |      | 83   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 94(2)                          |
| Neches      | –            | Barenbrug USA         |                     |      |                   |      |                   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 104  |      |      | –                              |
| Patriot     | Intermediate | Pennington            |                     | 110  | 137               | 122  |                   | 100  | 111  | 110  | 123  | 102  | 132  | 109  | 123  | 98   | 114  | 115(13)                        |
| Pinnacle    | Ladino       | Allied Seed           |                     |      |                   |      |                   |      |      |      | 87   |      |      |      |      |      |      | –                              |
| Rampart     | –            | Oregro Seeds          |                     |      |                   |      |                   | 90   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | –                              |
| Regal       | Ladino       | Public                | 92                  |      | 57                | 54   |                   | 93   |      | 103  |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 80(5)                          |
| Regal Graze | Ladino       | Cal/West              |                     |      | 84                | 87   | 105               | 90   | 87   | 93   | 72   | 94   | 81   | 102  | 87   | 98   | 87   | 88(13)                         |
| Renovation  | Intermediate | Smith Seed            |                     |      |                   |      |                   |      |      |      |      |      | 102  | 100  | 55   |      | 92   | 87(4)                          |
| Resolute    | Intermediate | Southern States       |                     |      | 101               | 106  |                   |      |      |      | 65   |      |      |      |      |      |      | 91(3)                          |
| Seminole    | Ladino       | Saddle Butte Ag. Inc. |                     | 75   |                   | 97   | 91                |      |      |      |      |      | 89   | 85   |      |      |      | 97(5)                          |
| Tillman II  | Ladino       | Caudill Seed          | 92                  |      |                   |      |                   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | –                              |
| WBDX        | Dutch        | Saddle Butte Ag. Inc. |                     |      |                   |      |                   |      |      | 70   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | –                              |
| Will        | Ladino       | Allied Seed           |                     |      | 117               | 87   | 107               | 105  | 108  | 143  | 115  | 133  | 157  | 111  | 120  | 109  | 114  | 117(13)                        |

<sup>1</sup> Year trial was established.

<sup>2</sup> Use this summary table as a guide in making variety decisions, but refer to specific yearly reports to determine statistical differences in stand persistence between varieties. To find actual persistence ratings, look in the yearly report for the final year of each specific test. For example, the trial planted in 2010 was grazed for four years so the final persistence report would be “2014 Red and White Clover Grazing Tolerance Report” archived in the UK Forage website at forages.ca.uky.edu.

<sup>3</sup> This trial was planted in the spring of 2006 due to poor establishment of the fall 2005 planting.

<sup>4</sup> This trial was planted in the spring of 2008 due to poor establishment of the fall 2007 planting.

<sup>5</sup> Mean only presented when respective variety was included in two or more trials.

<sup>6</sup> Number of years of data.









**Table 24. Summary of 2000-2019 Kentucky perennial ryegrass and festulolium (FL) grazing tolerance trials in Lexington (stand persistence shown as a percent of the mean of the commercial varieties in the trial).**

| Variety                          | Type                 | Proprietor          | 2000 <sup>1,2</sup> | 2001 | 2003 | 2007 | 2008 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | Mean <sup>3</sup><br>(#trials) |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|--------------------------------|
|                                  |                      |                     | 4yr <sup>4</sup>    | 3yr  | 4yr  | 4yr  | 4yr  | 4yr  | 4yr  | 4yr  | 4yr  | 4yr  | 3yr  |      |                                |
| AGRLP103                         | –                    | AgResearch USA      | 128                 |      | 86   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 107(2)                         |
| Albion                           | tetraploid           | Grassland Oregon    |                     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 120  |      | –                              |
| Aries                            | diploid              | Ampac Seed          |                     | 139  |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | –                              |
| Barfest (FL)                     | MF x PR <sup>6</sup> | Barenbrug USA       |                     |      |      |      |      | 116  | 112  |      |      |      |      |      | 114(2)                         |
| Barvitra                         | diploid              | Barenbrug USA       |                     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 35   |      | –                              |
| BG-34                            | diploid              | Barenbrug USA       |                     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 83   |      | –                              |
| Boost                            | tetraploid           | Allied Seed         |                     |      |      |      | 101  | 83   | 95   | 104  |      |      |      |      | 96(4)                          |
| Calibra                          | tetraploid           | DLF International   |                     |      |      |      |      |      |      | 120  |      | 88   | 97   | 108  | 103(4)                         |
| Citadel                          | tetraploid           | Donley Seed         | 107                 |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | –                              |
| Duo (FL)                         | MF x PR <sup>6</sup> | Ampac Seed          | 116                 |      |      |      | 95   | 72   | 90   | 115  |      |      | 70   | 67   | 89(7)                          |
| Lasso                            | diploid              | DLF-Jenks           |                     | 130  |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | –                              |
| Linn (certified)                 | diploid              | Public              | 112                 | 129  | 63   |      | 95   | 108  | 95   | 103  | 96   | 80   | 74   | 96   | 96(11)                         |
| Maverick                         | tetraploid           | Ampac Seed          |                     | 36   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | –                              |
| Meadow Green (FL)                | MF x IR <sup>6</sup> | Pure Seed           |                     |      |      |      |      |      |      | 15   |      |      |      |      | –                              |
| Melpetra                         | tetraploid           | Hood River Seed     |                     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 106  | –                              |
| PayDay                           | tetraploid           | Mountain View Seeds |                     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 101  | 85   |      |      | 93(2)                          |
| Polly II                         | tetraploid           | FS Growmark         | 36                  | 68   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 52(2)                          |
| Power                            | tetraploid           | Ampac Seed          |                     |      |      | 158  |      | 107  | 112  | 109  | 89   | 79   | 83   |      | 105(7)                         |
| Quartet                          | tetraploid           | Ampac Seed          |                     | 77   |      | 59   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 68(2)                          |
| Remington                        | tetraploid           | Barenbrug USA       |                     |      | 151  |      |      |      |      |      |      | 138  | 180  | 135  | 151(3)                         |
| Remington PLUS NEA2 <sup>5</sup> | tetraploid           | Barenbrug USA       |                     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 145  | 171  |      | 158(3)                         |
| Spring Green (FL)                | MF x PR <sup>6</sup> | Rose Agri-Seed      | 101                 |      |      |      | 109  | 115  | 115  | 120  |      |      | 87   | 89   | 105(7)                         |
| TetraGain                        | tetraploid           | Pure Seed           |                     |      |      |      |      |      |      | 112  |      |      |      |      | –                              |
| Victorian                        | diploid              | Caudill Seed        |                     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 114  |      |      |      | –                              |

<sup>1</sup> Year trial was established.

<sup>2</sup> Use this summary table as a guide in making variety decisions, but refer to specific yearly reports to determine statistical differences in stand persistence between varieties. To find actual persistence ratings, look in the yearly report for the final year of each specific trial. For example, the Lexington trial planted in 2010 was grazed four years so the final report would be “2014 Cool-Season Grass Grazing Tolerance Report” archived in the UK Forage website at [forages.ca.uky.edu](http://forages.ca.uky.edu).

<sup>3</sup> Mean only presented when respective variety was included in two or more trials.

<sup>4</sup> Number of years of data.

<sup>5</sup> Remington PLUS NEA2 contains a non-toxic (novel) endophyte.

<sup>6</sup> MF = meadow fescue, PR = perennial ryegrass, IR = Italian ryegrass.

**Table 25. Summary of 1999-2019 Kentucky tall fescue horse-grazing tolerance trials with three or more years of data in Lexington (stand persistence shown as a percent of the stand rating of the endophyte free variety KY 31-).**

| Variety                         | Endophyte Status <sup>1</sup> | Proprietor/<br>KY Distributor  | 1999 <sup>2,3</sup><br>3-yr <sup>5</sup> | 2001<br>4-yr | 2002<br>4-yr | 2003<br>4-yr | 2004<br>4-yr | 2005<br>4-yr | 2006<br>4-yr | 2007<br>4-yr | 2008<br>4-yr | 2009<br>4-yr | 2010<br>4-yr | 2011<br>4-yr | 2012<br>4-yr | 2013<br>4-yr | 2014<br>4-yr | 2015<br>4-yr | 2016<br>3-yr | Mean <sup>4</sup><br>(#trials) |         |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------------------|---------|
| BarOptima PLUS E34 <sup>6</sup> | novel                         | Barenbrug USA                  |  |              |              |              |              |              |              | 107          |              |              | 101          | 101          | 95           | 104          | 99           | 99           | 101          | 101(8)                         |         |
| Bronson                         | free                          | Ampac Seed                     | 80                                       |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | –                              |         |
| Cajun II                        | free                          | Smith Seed Services            |  |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | 96           |              |              |              | 101          | 99(2)                          |         |
| Cattle Club                     | free                          | Green Seed                     | 95                                       |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | –                              |         |
| Cowgirl                         | free                          | Rose Agri-Seed                 |  |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | 105          |              |              |              | 99           |              |              |              |              | 102(2)                         |         |
| Festorina                       | free                          | Advanta Seed                   | 102                                      |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | –                              |         |
| Jesup MaxQ                      | novel                         | Pennington Seed                |  |              | 98           |              |              | 78           |              |              | 104          | 97           | 100          | 101          | 97           | 105          | 98           | 100          | 99           | 98(11)                         |         |
| Johnstone                       | free                          | ProSeeds Marketing             |  | 88           |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | –                              |         |
| KY31+                           | toxic                         | KY Agri. Exp. Sta.             |  | 105          |              |              |              | 102          | 109          | 120          | 107          | 101          | 101          | 101          | 99           | 105          | 99           | 100          | 101          | 104(13)                        |         |
| KY31-                           | free                          | KY Agri. Exp. Sta.             | 100                                      | 100          | 100          | 100          | 100          | 100          | 100          | 100          | 100          | 100          | 100          | 100          | 100          | 100          | 100          | 100          | 100          | 100                            | 100(17) |
| Lacefield MaxQ II               | novel                         | Pennington Seed                |  |              |              |              |              | 105          | 110          |              | 98           |              |              |              | 104          |              |              | 100          | 100          | 103(6)                         |         |
| Nanryo                          | free                          | Japanese Grassland Forage Seed |  |              |              |              |              |              |              | 72           |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | –                              |         |
| Seine                           | free                          | Seed Research of Oregon        |  |              |              |              | 135          |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | –                              |         |
| Select                          | free                          | Southern States                | 82                                       |              | 109          | 94           | 99           | 73           | 104          | 76           | 108          | 98           | 100          | 101          | 98           | 98           | 97           | 100          |              | 96(15)                         |         |
| SS0705TFSL                      | free                          | Southern States                |  |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | 98           | 100          | 100          | 99(3)                          |         |
| Stargrazer                      | free                          | Southern States                | 70                                       |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | –                              |         |
| Stockman                        | free                          | Seed Research of Oregon        |  |              |              |              | 125          |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | –                              |         |

<sup>1</sup> Free varieties that do not contain an endophyte. Toxic-KY31+ contains a toxic endophyte. Novel-varieties that contain an endophyte that aids persistence but is not toxic to cattle.

<sup>2</sup> Year trial was established.

<sup>3</sup> Use this summary table as a guide in making variety decisions, but refer to specific yearly reports to determine statistical differences in stand persistence between varieties. To find actual persistence ratings, look in the yearly report for the final year of each specific trial. For example, the Lexington trial planted in 2010 was grazed four years so the final report would be “2014 Cool-Season Grass Horse Grazing Tolerance Report” archived in the UK Forage website at forages.ca.uky.edu.

<sup>4</sup> Mean only presented when respective variety was included in two or more trials.

<sup>5</sup> Number of years of data.

<sup>6</sup> BarOptima PLUS E34 is not recommended for pregnant mares because it produces low levels of the alkaloid ergovaline.

**Table 26. Summary of 1999-2019 Kentucky orchardgrass horse-grazing tolerance trials with three or more years of data in Lexington (stand persistence shown as a percentage of the mean of the commercial varieties in the trial).**

| Variety           | Proprietor/<br>KY Distributor | 1999 <sup>1,2</sup><br>3-yr <sup>5</sup> | 2000<br>4-yr | 2001<br>4-yr | 2002<br>4-yr | 2005 <sup>3</sup><br>4-yr | 2006<br>4-yr | 2009<br>4-yr | 2010<br>4-yr | 2011<br>4-yr | 2012<br>4-yr | 2013<br>4-yr | 2014<br>4-yr | 2015<br>4-yr | 2016<br>3-yr | Mean <sup>4</sup><br>(#trials) |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------------------|
| Albert            | Univ. of Wisconsin            |  |              | 95           |              |                           |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | –                              |
| Ambrosia          | Amer.Grass Seed Prod.         |  |              |              |              |                           | 61           |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | –                              |
| Benchmark         | Southern States               | 104                                      |              |              | 85           |                           |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | 95(2)                          |
| Benchmark Plus    | Southern States               |  |              |              | 111          | 157                       | 139          | 111          | 114          | 121          | 121          | 137          | 105          |              |              | 120(8)                         |
| Crown Royale      | Grassland Oregon              |  |              | 95           |              |                           |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | –                              |
| Crown Royale Plus | Grassland Oregon              |  |              |              | 97           |                           |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | –                              |
| Elise             | Pure Seed                     |  |              |              |              |                           |              |              |              |              | 87           |              |              |              |              | –                              |
| Haymate           | Southern States               | 96                                       | 85           |              | 97           |                           |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | 93(3)                          |
| Persist           | Smith Seed Services           |  |              |              |              | 114                       |              | 103          | 101          | 92           | 112          | 146          | 95           | 123          | 127          | 112(8)                         |
| Potomac           | Public                        |  |              |              | 117          |                           |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | –                              |
| Prairie           | Turner Seed                   |  |              | 100          |              |                           |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | 92           | 91           | 92(2)                          |
| Prodigy           | Caudill Seed                  |  |              |              |              |                           |              |              |              |              |              | 54           |              |              |              | –                              |
| Profit            | Ampac Seed                    |  |              |              |              |                           |              | 93           | 86           |              | 92           |              | 108          |              |              | 95(4)                          |
| SS-0708OGDT       | Southern States               |  |              |              |              |                           |              |              |              | 104          |              |              | 92           | 77           | 90           | 91(4)                          |
| Tekapo            | Ampac Seed                    | 101                                      | 115          |              | 93           | 30                        |              | 92           | 100          | 83           | 87           | 63           |              | 108          |              | 94(9)                          |

<sup>1</sup> Year trial was established.

<sup>2</sup> Use this summary table as a guide in making variety decisions, but refer to specific yearly reports to determine statistical differences in stand persistence between varieties. To find actual persistence ratings, look in the yearly report for the final year of each specific trial. For example, the Lexington trial planted in 2010 was grazed four years so the final report would be “2014 Cool-Season Grass Horse Grazing Tolerance Report” archived in the UK Forage website at forages.ca.uky.edu.

<sup>3</sup> Due to high variation during 2005 these values are not included in the overall mean.

<sup>4</sup> Mean only presented when respective variety was included in two or more trials.

<sup>5</sup> Number of years of data.



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# 2019 Tall Fescue and Bromegrass Report

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## Introduction

Tall fescue (*Festuca arundinacea*) is a productive, well-adapted, persistent, soil-conserving, cool-season grass grown on approximately 5.5 million acres in Kentucky. This grass, used for both hay and pasture, is the forage base of most of Kentucky's livestock enterprises, particularly beef cattle.

Much of the tall fescue in Kentucky is infected with an internal fungus (endophyte) that produces ergot alkaloids and results in decreased weight gains in growing ruminants and lower pregnancy rates in breeding stock, especially in hot weather. Varieties are now available that are free of this fungal endophyte or infected with a nontoxic endophyte. Varieties in the latter group are also referred to as "novel" or "friendly" endophyte varieties, because their endophyte improves stand survival without creating animal production problems.

Smooth bromegrass (*Bromus inermis* Leyss) is a perennial pasture and hay grass native of Europe. It has creeping underground stems or rootstocks from which the leafy stems arise. Smooth bromegrass is palatable to all classes of livestock, from emergence to the heading stage. Meadow bromegrass (*Bromus biebersteinii* Roem & Schult) is a native of southeastern Europe and the adjacent Near East. It resembles smooth bromegrass but has only short rhizomes or none at all. Meadow bromegrass is densely tufted and has a similar growth habit to tall fescue and has the advantage of greater seedling vigor than smooth bromegrass. Hybrid bromegrasses are a cross between smooth and meadow bromegrasses that combine the vigorous growth of smooth bromegrass with the leafiness and good regrowth of meadow bromegrass. Alaska bromegrass (*Bromus sitchensis*), also called Sitka bromegrass, is a long-lived perennial bunchgrass that will actively grow at moderate rates during the spring and summer season. It does not spread by rhizomes and is more suited to environments with harsh winters.

Prairie bromegrass (*Bromus willdenowii*) is a tall, cool-season, leafy, short-lived, perennial, deep-rooted bunchgrass. It was introduced from South America. Seedheads are produced throughout the growing season, and to maintain productive stands for several

Table 1. Temperature and rainfall at Lexington, Kentucky, in 2017, 2018, and 2019

|       | 2017 |                  |          |        | 2018 |     |          |        | 2019 <sup>2</sup> |     |          |       |
|-------|------|------------------|----------|--------|------|-----|----------|--------|-------------------|-----|----------|-------|
|       | Temp |                  | Rainfall |        | Temp |     | Rainfall |        | Temp              |     | Rainfall |       |
|       | °F   | DEP <sup>1</sup> | IN       | DEP    | °F   | DEP | IN       | DEP    | °F                | DEP | IN       | DEP   |
| JAN   | 40   | +9               | 6.81     | +3.95  | 31   | 0   | 2.01     | -0.85  | 33                | +2  | 4.11     | +1.25 |
| FEB   | 47   | +12              | 4.46     | +1.25  | 45   | +10 | 9.77     | +6.56  | 42                | +7  | 7.64     | +4.43 |
| MAR   | 48   | +4               | 3.34     | -1.06  | 42   | -2  | 5.16     | +0.76  | 43                | -1  | 3.44     | -0.91 |
| APR   | 62   | +7               | 4.17     | +0.29  | 50   | -5  | 5.52     | +1.64  | 54                | +4  | 4.76     | +0.88 |
| MAY   | 66   | +2               | 7.74     | +3.27  | 73   | +9  | 8.39     | +3.92  | 69                | +5  | 4.49     | +0.02 |
| JUN   | 73   | +1               | 7.68     | +4.02  | 76   | +4  | 6.42     | +2.76  | 73                | +1  | 6.13     | +2.47 |
| JUL   | 76   | 0                | 4.49     | -0.51  | 77   | +1  | 6.15     | +1.15  | 79                | +3  | 3.30     | -1.70 |
| AUG   | 74   | -1               | 6.66     | +2.73  | 77   | +2  | 6.45     | +2.52  | 77                | +2  | 2.42     | -1.51 |
| SEP   | 69   | +1               | 4.72     | +1.52  | 74   | +6  | 12.88    | +9.68  | 77                | +9  | 0.18     | -3.02 |
| OCT   | 60   | +3               | 6.06     | +3.49  | 59   | +2  | 6.54     | +3.97  | 61                | +4  | 8.15     | +5.58 |
| NOV   | 47   | +2               | 3.09     | -0.30  | 42   | -3  | 5.64     | +2.25  |                   |     |          |       |
| DEC   | 35   | -1               | 2.66     | -1.32  | 40   | +4  | 7.35     | +3.37  |                   |     |          |       |
| Total |      |                  | 61.88    | +17.33 |      |     | 82.28    | +37.73 |                   |     | 44.67    | +7.49 |

<sup>1</sup> DEP is departure from the long-term average.

<sup>2</sup> 2019 data is for ten months through October.

Table 2. Temperature and rainfall at Quicksand, Kentucky, in 2017, 2018, and 2019

|       | 2017 |                  |          |       | 2018 |     |          |        | 2019 <sup>2</sup> |     |          |       |
|-------|------|------------------|----------|-------|------|-----|----------|--------|-------------------|-----|----------|-------|
|       | Temp |                  | Rainfall |       | Temp |     | Rainfall |        | Temp              |     | Rainfall |       |
|       | °F   | DEP <sup>1</sup> | IN       | DEP   | °F   | DEP | IN       | DEP    | °F                | DEP | IN       | DEP   |
| JAN   | 43   | +12              | 4.61     | +1.32 | 31   | 0   | 1.71     | -1.58  | 37                | +6  | 4.93     | +1.64 |
| FEB   | 46   | +13              | 2.27     | -1.33 | 48   | +15 | 7.56     | +3.96  | 45                | +12 | 8.15     | +4.55 |
| MAR   | 48   | +7               | 4.13     | -0.21 | 44   | +3  | 5.90     | +1.56  | 44                | +3  | 2.15     | -2.19 |
| APR   | 62   | +9               | 4.23     | +0.13 | 52   | -1  | 4.07     | -0.03  | 58                | +5  | 2.55     | -1.55 |
| MAY   | 65   | +3               | 6.33     | +1.85 | 71   | +9  | 5.28     | +0.80  | 68                | +6  | 3.91     | -0.57 |
| JUN   | 71   | +1               | 5.82     | +2.00 | 75   | +5  | 5.47     | +1.65  | 72                | +2  | 8.35     | +4.53 |
| JUL   | 76   | +2               | 5.76     | +0.51 | 76   | +2  | 5.39     | +0.14  | 77                | +3  | 6.32     | +1.07 |
| AUG   | 73   | 0                | 6.59     | +2.58 | 75   | +2  | 3.23     | -0.78  | 75                | +2  | 1.57     | -2.44 |
| SEP   | 68   | +2               | 2.57     | -0.95 | 74   | +8  | 8.70     | +5.18  | 74                | +8  | 0.04     | -3.48 |
| OCT   | 59   | +5               | 5.56     | +2.65 | 59   | +5  | 4.54     | +1.63  | 60                | +6  | 6.80     | +3.89 |
| NOV   | 47   | +5               | 1.33     | -2.55 | 43   | +1  | 5.03     | +1.15  |                   |     |          |       |
| DEC   | 37   | +4               | 3.28     | -0.86 | 41   | +8  | 7.07     | +2.93  |                   |     |          |       |
| Total |      |                  | 52.48    | +5.14 |      |     | 63.95    | +16.61 |                   |     | 44.77    | +5.45 |

<sup>1</sup> DEP is departure from the long-term average.

<sup>2</sup> 2019 data is for the ten months through October.

Table 3. Temperature and rainfall at Princeton, Kentucky, in 2018 and 2019

|       | 2018 |                  |          |       | 2019 <sup>2</sup> |     |          |       |
|-------|------|------------------|----------|-------|-------------------|-----|----------|-------|
|       | Temp |                  | Rainfall |       | Temp              |     | Rainfall |       |
|       | °F   | DEP <sup>1</sup> | IN       | DEP   | °F                | DEP | IN       | DEP   |
| JAN   | 32   | -2               | 4.28     | +0.48 | 36                | +2  | 3.62     | -0.18 |
| FEB   | 45   | +7               | 9.50     | +5.07 | 43                | +5  | 11.14    | +6.71 |
| MAR   | 47   | 0                | 9.53     | -1.41 | 44                | -3  | 3.34     | -1.60 |
| APR   | 53   | -6               | 4.90     | +0.10 | 59                | 0   | 4.50     | -0.30 |
| MAY   | 74   | +7               | 4.69     | -0.27 | 69                | +2  | 5.61     | +0.05 |
| JUN   | 78   | +3               | 7.80     | +3.95 | 73                | *2  | 4.33     | +0.48 |
| JUL   | 78   | 0                | 2.58     | -1.71 | 77                | -1  | 3.12     | -1.17 |
| AUG   | 77   | 0                | 2.68     | -1.33 | 76                | -1  | 6.31     | +2.30 |
| SEP   | 74   | +4               | 5.61     | +2.28 | 75                | +4  | 0.34     | -2.99 |
| OCT   | 61   | +2               | 2.96     | -0.09 | 59                | 0   | 6.36     | +3.31 |
| NOV   | 42   | -5               | 4.77     | +0.14 |                   |     |          |       |
| DEC   | 42   | +3               | 5.45     | +0.41 |                   |     |          |       |
| Total |      |                  | 58.75    | 7.62  |                   |     | 48.67    | +7.21 |

<sup>1</sup> DEP is departure from the long-term average.

<sup>2</sup> 2019 data is for the ten months through October.

years, it is necessary to manage at least one growth cycle each year for seed production and natural reseeding. Some prairie bromegrasses are susceptible to winterkill. Mountain bromegrass (*Bromus marginatus*) is native to North America from Alaska to northern Mexico, where it can be found in many types of habitats. It is a short-lived, perennial, cool-season, sod-forming grass. Leafy growth and a deep, well-branched root system give protection on erodible slopes. It is similar to California bromegrass (*Bromus carinatus*), and some consider them to be synonymous.

All bromegrasses have several advantages over tall fescue, including retaining quality as they mature and better growth during dry weather, but they are generally less well adapted in Kentucky.

This report provides current yield data on tall fescue varieties and similar grass species in trials in Kentucky as well as guidelines for selecting tall fescue varieties. Tables 16 and 17 show a summary of all tall fescue and bromegrass varieties tested in Kentucky for the past 17 years. The UK Forage Extension website at forages.ca.uky.edu contains electronic versions of all forage variety testing reports from Kentucky and surrounding states, and a large number of other forage publications.

## Important Selection Considerations

**Local adaptation and seasonal yield.** Before purchasing tall fescue seed, make sure that the variety is adapted to Kentucky, as indicated by good performance across years and locations in replicated yield trials such as those presented in this publication. Choose high-yielding persistent varieties and varieties that are productive during the desired season of use.

Tall fescues are often classified as either “Mediterranean” or “continental” types according to the area from which the parental material for the variety originated. In general, the Mediterranean types (e.g., cajun and fawn) are more productive in the fall and winter than the continental types (such as Kentucky 31). Although they mature earlier in the spring, the Mediterranean types become dormant and nonproductive during the summer in Kentucky and are more susceptible than continental varieties to leaf diseases such as helminthosporium and rhizoctonia. Therefore, Mediterranean varieties are less preferred for use in Kentucky than continental types. Because Mediterranean varieties mature earlier in the spring, first-cutting yields are generally higher when the two types are harvested at the same time. However, the continental types produce more in the summer, allowing for extended grazing.

**Endophyte level.** Seed with infection levels of less than 5 percent is regarded as endophyte-free. A statement to that effect will be displayed prominently on a green tag attached to the seed bag. If no tag is present, assume the seed is infected with the toxic endophyte. Several varieties, both with and without the endophyte, are adapted for use in Kentucky. With the new “novel endophyte” tall fescues, the seed tag should specify the infection level. Also, seed of these varieties should be handled carefully to preserve this infection, which means keeping seed cool and planting as soon as possible. “Novel endophyte” varieties need a high infection level to improve stand survival. Look

**Table 4. Descriptive scheme for the stages of development in perennial forage grasses**

| Code  | Description                              | Remarks   |
|---|--|---|
| <b>Leaf development</b>                             |  |   |
| 11  | First leaf unfolded                      | Applicable to regrowth of established (plants) and to primary growth of seedlings. Further subdivision by means of leaf development index (see text).         |
| 12  | 2 leaves unfolded                        | Further subdivision by means of leaf development index (see text).  |
| 13  | 3 leaves unfolded                        |   |
| •   | •••••                                    |   |
| 19  | 9 or more leaves unfolded                |   |
| <b>Sheath elongation</b>                            |  |   |
| 20  | No elongated sheath                      | Denotes first phase of new spring growth after overwintering. This character is used instead of tillering which is difficult to record in established stands. |
| 21  | 1 elongated sheath                       |   |
| 22  | 2 elongated sheaths                      |   |
| 23  | 3 elongated sheaths                      |   |
| •   | •••••                                    |   |
| 29  | 9 or more elongated sheaths              |   |
| <b>Tillering (alternative to sheath elongation)</b> |  |   |
| 21  | Main shoot only                          | Applicable to primary growth of seedlings or to single tiller transplants.  |
| 22  | Main shoot and 1 tiller                  |   |
| 23  | Main shoot and 2 tillers                 |   |
| 24  | Main shoot and 3 tillers                 |   |
| •   | •••••                                    |   |
| 29  | Main shoot and 9 or more tillers         |   |
| <b>Stem elongation</b>                              |  |   |
| 31  | First node palpable                      | More precisely an accumulation of nodes. Fertile and sterile tillers distinguishable.   |
| 32  | Second node palpable                     |   |
| 33  | Third node palpable                      |   |
| 34  | Fourth node palpable                     |   |
| 35  | Fifth node palpable                      |   |
| 37  | Flag leaf just visible                   |   |
| 39  | Flag leaf ligule/collar just visible     |   |
| <b>Booting</b>                                      |  |   |
| 45  | Boot swollen                             |   |
| <b>Inflorescence emergence</b>                      |  |   |
| 50  | Upper 1 to 2 cm of inflorescence visible |   |
| 52  | ¼ of inflorescence emerged               |   |
| 54  | ½ of inflorescence emerged               |   |
| 56  | ¾ of inflorescence emerged               |   |
| 58  | Base of inflorescence just visible       |   |
| <b>Anthesis</b>                                     |  |   |
| 60  | Preanthesis                              | Inflorescence-bearing internode is visible. No anthers are visible.   |
| 62  | Beginning of anthesis                    | First anthers appear.   |
| 64  | Maximum anthesis                         | Maximum pollen shedding.  |
| 66  | End of anthesis                          | No more pollen shedding.  |
| <b>Seed ripening</b>                                |  |   |
| 75  | Endosperm milky                          | Inflorescence green   |
| 85  | Endosperm soft doughy                    | No seeds loosening when inflorescence is hit on palm.   |
| 87  | Endosperm hard doughy                    | Inflorescence losing chlorophyll; a few seeds loosening when inflorescence hit on palm  |
| 91  | Endosperm hard                           | Inflorescence-bearing internode losing chlorophyll; seeds loosening in quantity when inflorescence hit on palm.   |
| 93  | Endosperm hard and dry                   | Final stage of seed development; most seeds shed.   |

Source: Smith, J. Allan, and Virgil W. Hayes. 1981. p. 416-418. 14th International Grasslands Conference Proc. 1981. June 14-24, 1981, Lexington, Kentucky.



**Table 5. Dry matter yields, seedling vigor, maturity, and stand persistence of tall fescue and meadow fescue (MF) varieties sown September 7, 2016, at Lexington, Kentucky**

| Variety  | Endophyte Status <sup>1</sup> | Seedling Vigor <sup>2</sup><br>Oct 16, 2016 | Maturity <sup>3</sup> |        |       | Percent Stand |        |        |        |        |        | Yield (tons/acre) |       |       |       |        | 3-year Total |        |        |
|--|-------------------------------|---|-----------------------|--------|-------|---------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------------|--------|--------|
|  |                               |   | 2017                  | 2018   | 2019  | 2016          | 2017   |        | 2018   |        | 2019   |                   | 2017  | 2018  | 2019  |        |              |        |        |
|  |                               |   | May 3                 | May 11 | May 9 | Oct 5         | Mar 14 | Oct 31 | Mar 15 | Oct 19 | Mar 22 | Oct 17            | Total | Total | May 9 | Jun 24 |              | Total  |        |
| <b>Commercial Varieties-Available for Farm Use</b> |                               |   |                       |        |       |               |        |        |        |        |        |                   |       |       |       |        |              |        |        |
| Jesup MaxQ   | novel                         | 4.8   | 56.5                  | 54.5   | 57.5  | 100           | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100               | 100   | 5.95  | 3.44  | 0.93   | 1.28         | 2.20   | 11.59* |
| SS0705TFSL   | free                          | 3.9   | 56.0                  | 54.0   | 56.5  | 100           | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100               | 99    | 6.08  | 3.06  | 0.78   | 1.17         | 1.95   | 11.09* |
| Tower Protek                                       | novel                         | 3.0   | 51.0                  | 46.3   | 49.8  | 99            | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100               | 98    | 5.95  | 2.97  | 0.84   | 1.09         | 1.93   | 10.86* |
| Teton II   | free                          | 3.8   | 57.0                  | 56.0   | 56.0  | 100           | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100               | 96    | 6.13  | 2.96  | 0.75   | 1.01         | 1.76   | 10.84* |
| KY31+  | toxic                         | 4.0   | 52.0                  | 49.0   | 53.0  | 100           | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100               | 98    | 6.25  | 2.96  | 0.68   | 0.90         | 1.58   | 10.78* |
| Select   | free                          | 3.9   | 55.5                  | 53.5   | 56.5  | 100           | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100               | 94    | 5.93  | 2.95  | 0.83   | 0.94         | 1.78   | 10.65* |
| Kora Protek  | novel                         | 3.5   | 51.0                  | 51.0   | 48.8  | 100           | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100               | 99    | 5.64  | 3.30  | 0.85   | 0.82         | 1.68   | 10.62* |
| Tower  | free                          | 2.5   | 53.5                  | 35.5   | 47.5  | 99            | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100               | 96    | 6.35  | 2.32  | 0.70   | 1.15         | 1.85   | 10.53* |
| Bronson  | free                          | 3.5   | 55.5                  | 51.8   | 55.5  | 100           | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100               | 100   | 5.50  | 3.04  | 0.93   | 0.97         | 1.90   | 10.44* |
| BarOptima PLUS E34                                 | novel                         | 3.1   | 51.0                  | 46.3   | 45.0  | 100           | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100               | 99    | 5.54  | 2.90  | 0.90   | 1.03         | 1.93   | 10.38* |
| Cajun II   | free                          | 4.4   | 55.5                  | 55.0   | 57.0  | 100           | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100               | 100   | 4.97  | 3.01  | 1.15   | 1.15         | 2.30   | 10.28* |
| Estancia Arkshield                                 | novel                         | 4.1   | 54.0                  | 53.0   | 56.0  | 100           | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100               | 100   | 4.98  | 3.13  | 1.03   | 0.94         | 1.97   | 10.08* |
| Martin2 Protek                                     | novel                         | 3.5   | 57.0                  | 54.5   | 56.5  | 100           | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100               | 91    | 5.49  | 2.78  | 0.75   | 0.99         | 1.74   | 10.01* |
| Lacefield MaxQII                                   | novel                         | 4.1   | 53.0                  | 52.5   | 52.0  | 100           | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100               | 99    | 5.06  | 2.99  | 0.76   | 0.84         | 1.60   | 9.65   |
| Payload  | free                          | 3.9   | 56.0                  | 52.5   | 54.5  | 100           | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100               | 100   | 4.92  | 2.62  | 0.85   | 0.92         | 1.77   | 9.31   |
| Cosmonaut (MF)                                     | free                          | 4.1   | 50.0                  | 29.0   | 47.8  | 100           | 100    | 97     | 96     | 95     | 79     | 48                | 5.05  | 1.57  | 0.56  | 0.68   | 1.23         | 7.85   |        |
| <b>Experimental Varieties</b>                      |                               |   |                       |        |       |               |        |        |        |        |        |                   |       |       |       |        |              |        |        |
| KYFA1531   | free                          | 4.5   | 54.0                  | 49.8   | 55.0  | 100           | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100               | 100   | 6.59  | 3.20  | 0.95   | 1.18         | 2.13   | 11.92* |
| KYFA1537   | free                          | 4.9   | 54.5                  | 52.0   | 55.0  | 100           | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100               | 100   | 6.28  | 3.36  | 0.83   | 1.04         | 1.86   | 11.50* |
| IS-FTF 70  | free                          | 3.3   | 53.0                  | 50.3   | 50.5  | 100           | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100               | 96    | 6.00  | 3.10  | 1.05   | 1.20         | 2.25   | 11.35* |
| TFCB4C2  | free                          | 2.9   | 55.0                  | 55.0   | 57.5  | 100           | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100               | 100   | 6.08  | 3.32  | 1.01   | 0.90         | 1.91   | 11.31* |
| KYFA1533   | free                          | 4.6   | 54.0                  | 52.3   | 54.5  | 100           | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100               | 100   | 5.96  | 3.11  | 1.02   | 1.03         | 2.04   | 11.11* |
| KYFA1536   | free                          | 4.4   | 55.0                  | 53.0   | 54.5  | 100           | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100               | 100   | 5.81  | 3.16  | 1.07   | 0.93         | 1.99   | 10.96* |
| TFCB3C2  | free                          | 3.3   | 56.5                  | 54.0   | 57.0  | 100           | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100               | 99    | 5.57  | 3.20  | 1.05   | 1.07         | 2.12   | 10.89* |
| RAD-HAN33  | free                          | 3.1   | 55.5                  | 54.0   | 55.0  | 100           | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100               | 99    | 5.78  | 2.86  | 0.96   | 1.22         | 2.18   | 10.82* |
| TFSOFT   | free                          | 3.8   | 54.5                  | 55.5   | 56.0  | 100           | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100               | 96    | 5.53  | 2.98  | 0.90   | 1.38         | 2.28   | 10.79* |
| KYFA9304   | free                          | 4.8   | 52.0                  | 51.5   | 54.0  | 100           | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100               | 97    | 5.87  | 2.92  | 0.90   | 1.02         | 1.92   | 10.71* |
| KYFA1303   | free                          | 4.6   | 51.0                  | 52.0   | 52.5  | 100           | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100               | 100   | 5.86  | 3.25  | 0.62   | 0.94         | 1.56   | 10.68* |
| KYFA1532   | free                          | 4.4   | 54.5                  | 51.0   | 54.0  | 100           | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100               | 100   | 5.68  | 2.87  | 0.80   | 1.25         | 2.05   | 10.61* |
| TFCB5C2  | free                          | 3.8   | 54.5                  | 50.8   | 56.0  | 100           | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100               | 100   | 5.79  | 2.95  | 0.71   | 1.11         | 1.81   | 10.56* |
| KYFA9611   | free                          | 2.4   | 52.0                  | 41.0   | 48.5  | 98            | 99     | 100    | 100    | 100    | 99     | 97                | 6.38  | 2.59  | 0.56  | 1.01   | 1.57         | 10.53* |        |
| KYFA1535   | free                          | 4.6   | 55.0                  | 53.5   | 56.0  | 100           | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100               | 100   | 5.59  | 3.42  | 0.61   | 0.81         | 1.42   | 10.43* |
| KYFA1201   | free                          | 4.1   | 55.5                  | 52.0   | 56.0  | 100           | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100               | 98    | 5.49  | 3.12  | 0.88   | 0.89         | 1.77   | 10.37* |
| TFCB1bC2   | free                          | 3.3   | 53.5                  | 48.8   | 54.0  | 100           | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100               | 100   | 5.57  | 3.16  | 0.71   | 0.87         | 1.58   | 10.31* |
| KYFA9732/AR584                                     | novel                         | 4.4   | 53.0                  | 46.3   | 53.0  | 100           | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100               | 98    | 5.98  | 2.85  | 0.60   | 0.87         | 1.47   | 10.29* |
| RAD-HAN19  | free                          | 3.1   | 53.0                  | 51.5   | 53.5  | 100           | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100               | 98    | 5.24  | 3.18  | 0.78   | 1.09         | 1.87   | 10.28* |
| KYFA1534   | free                          | 4.5   | 56.0                  | 53.5   | 56.0  | 100           | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100               | 100   | 5.77  | 2.74  | 0.81   | 0.84         | 1.64   | 10.15* |
| DLFPS-FTF93  | free                          | 3.8   | 57.5                  | 56.0   | 58.0  | 100           | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100               | 98    | 5.24  | 2.63  | 1.03   | 0.93         | 1.97   | 9.84   |
| TF0503   | free                          | 4.0   | 55.0                  | 50.5   | 56.0  | 100           | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100               | 100   | 5.28  | 2.65  | 0.84   | 0.98         | 1.82   | 9.75   |
| KY31-  | free                          | 4.1   | 53.5                  | 51.5   | 54.5  | 100           | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100               | 99    | 4.82  | 3.09  | 0.77   | 0.96         | 1.73   | 9.64   |
| PPG-FTF112   | free                          | 3.1   | 52.5                  | 38.3   | 49.3  | 100           | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100               | 100   | 5.30  | 2.68  | 0.69   | 0.91         | 1.60   | 9.58   |
| IS-FTF54 Protek                                    | novel                         | 3.0   | 57.5                  | 56.0   | 58.0  | 100           | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100               | 100   | 5.12  | 2.59  | 0.93   | 0.94         | 1.87   | 9.57   |
| DLFPS-FTF96  | free                          | 3.5   | 53.0                  | 53.5   | 53.5  | 100           | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100               | 100   | 5.07  | 2.64  | 0.79   | 1.03         | 1.82   | 9.53   |
| IS-FTF73   | free                          | 3.1   | 51.5                  | 45.3   | 47.5  | 100           | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100               | 100   | 5.19  | 2.50  | 0.69   | 0.91         | 1.60   | 9.28   |
| SLTF10-3   | free                          | 3.1   | 53.5                  | 50.0   | 49.5  | 100           | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100               | 94    | 5.07  | 2.32  | 0.64   | 0.94         | 1.57   | 8.96   |
| KYFP0901 (MF)                                      | free                          | 4.4   | 50.0                  | 35.3   | 52.0  | 100           | 100    | 100    | 99     | 97     | 96     | 61                | 4.26  | 1.64  | 0.69  | 0.68   | 1.37         | 7.27   |        |
| 15610912   | free                          | 2.8   | 52.5                  | 50.8   | 55.0  | 98            | 98     | 68     | 63     | 63     | 53     | 48                | 2.26  | 1.52  | 0.41  | 0.46   | 0.87         | 4.64   |        |
| Mean   |                               | 3.8   | 54.0                  | 50.2   | 53.7  | 100           | 100    | 99     | 99     | 99     | 98     | 95                | 5.53  | 2.86  | 0.82  | 0.98   | 1.80         | 10.19  |        |
| CV,%   |                               | 12.9  | 3.2                   | 7.5    | 3.8   | 1             | 1      | 4      | 3      | 3      | 5      | 7                 | 17.22 | 17.84 | 24.80 | 22.49  | 18.50        | 13.59  |        |
| LSD,0.05   |                               | 0.7   | 2.4                   | 5.3    | 2.9   | 1             | 0      | 6      | 5      | 5      | 7      | 9                 | 1.33  | 0.71  | 0.28  | 0.31   | 0.44         | 1.94   |        |

<sup>1</sup> Free-varieties that do not contain an endophyte. Toxic-KY31+ contains a toxic endophyte. Novel-varieties that contain an endophyte that aids persistence but is not toxic to cattle.

<sup>2</sup> Vigor score based on a scale of 1 to 5 with 5 being the most vigorous seedling growth.

<sup>3</sup> Maturity rating scale: 37=flag leaf emergence, 45=boot swollen, 50=beginning of inflorescence emergence, 58=complete emergence of inflorescence, 62=beginning of pollen shed. See Table 4 for complete scale.

\*Not significantly different from the highest numerical value in the column, based on the 0.05 LSD.

for Alliance for Grassland Renewal seed quality assurance printed on each bag of novel fescue seed.

**Seed quality.** Buy premium-quality seed that is high in germination and purity levels and free from weed seed. Buy certified seed of improved varieties. An improved variety is one that has performed well in independent trials. The label also includes the test date (which must be within the previous nine months), the level of germination, and the amount of other crop and weed seed. Order seed well in advance of planting time to assure that it will be available when needed.

### Description of the Tests

Data from nine studies are reported. Tall fescue varieties were sown at Lexington (2016, 2017, and 2018), Princeton (2017) and Quicksand (2016 & 2018). The bromegrass trials were sown in Lexington in 2016, 2017, and 2018. The soils at Lexington (Maury), Princeton (Crider)

and Quicksand (Nolin) are well-drained silt loams. They are well suited for tall fescue and bromegrass production.

Seedlings were made at the rate of 25 pounds per acre for tall fescue and 20 pounds per acre for bromegrass into a prepared seedbed with a disk drill. Plots were 5 feet by 20 feet in a randomized complete block design with four replications with a harvested plot area of 5 feet by 15 feet. Nitrogen was topdressed at 60 pounds per acre of actual nitrogen in March, after the first cutting, and again in late summer, for a total of 180 pounds per acre over the season. The tests were harvested using a sickle-type forage plot harvester to simulate a spring cut hay/summer grazing/fall stockpile management system. The first cutting was harvested when all tall fescue and bromegrass varieties had reached at least the boot stage. Fresh weight samples were taken at each harvest to calculate dry matter production. Management practices for these tests regarding estab-

lishment, fertility (P, K, and lime based on regular soil tests), weed control, and harvest timing were in accordance with University of Kentucky recommendations.

### Results and Discussion

Weather data for Lexington, Quicksand, and Princeton are presented in Tables 1 through 3.

Ratings for maturity (see Table 4 for maturity scale), stand, and dry matter yields (tons/A) are reported in Tables 5 through 13. Yields are given by cutting date for 2019 and as total annual production. Stated yields are adjusted for percent weeds, therefore the tonnage given is for crop only. Varieties are listed by total yield in descending order. Experimental varieties are listed separately at the bottom of the tables.

Statistical analyses were performed on all data to determine if the apparent differences are truly due to varietal

**Table 6. Dry matter yields, seedling vigor, maturity, and stand persistence of tall fescue and meadow fescue (MF) varieties sown September 8, 2017, at Lexington, Kentucky**

| Variety  | Endophyte Status <sup>1</sup> | Seedling Vigor <sup>2</sup><br>Oct 12,<br>2017 | Maturity <sup>3</sup> |       | Percent Stand |        |        |        |        | Yield (tons/acre) |       |        |       | 2-year Total |       |
|--|-------------------------------|--|-----------------------|-------|---------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------------------|-------|--------|-------|--------------|-------|
|  |                               |  | 2018                  | 2019  | 2017          | 2018   |        | 2019   |        | 2018              | 2019  |        |       |              |       |
|  |                               |  | May 8                 | May 6 | Oct 12        | Mar 14 | Oct 19 | Mar 22 | Oct 17 | Total             | May 6 | Jun 24 | Total |              |       |
| <b>Commercial Varieties-Available for Farm Use</b> |                               |  |                       |       |               |        |        |        |        |                   |       |        |       |              |       |
| Jesup MaxQ   | novel                         | 4.0  | 54.0                  | 55.5  | 100           | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100               | 5.38  | 1.09   | 1.07  | 2.16         | 7.55* |
| SS0705TFSL   | free                          | 4.0  | 51.0                  | 53.5  | 100           | 99     | 99     | 99     | 99     | 99                | 5.42  | 1.18   | 0.92  | 2.10         | 7.52* |
| Cajun II   | free                          | 3.9  | 52.5                  | 55.5  | 99            | 99     | 99     | 99     | 99     | 100               | 5.29  | 1.18   | 1.02  | 2.19         | 7.49* |
| KY31+  | toxic                         | 4.3  | 46.3                  | 51.5  | 100           | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100               | 5.32  | 0.85   | 0.75  | 1.60         | 6.92* |
| BarOptima PLUS E34                                 | novel                         | 3.3  | 45.0                  | 48.8  | 99            | 95     | 98     | 98     | 98     | 100               | 4.59  | 1.00   | 0.78  | 1.78         | 6.37* |
| Lacefield MaxQII                                   | novel                         | 4.0  | 46.3                  | 53.0  | 100           | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100               | 4.77  | 0.67   | 0.91  | 1.59         | 6.36* |
| Pradel (MF)  | free                          | 3.9  | 45.0                  | 45.0  | 100           | 100    | 100    | 98     | 51     | 51                | 4.13  | 0.66   | 0.62  | 1.28         | 5.41  |
| <b>Experimental Varieties</b>                      |                               |  |                       |       |               |        |        |        |        |                   |       |        |       |              |       |
| KYFA1305   | free                          | 4.0  | 45.0                  | 53.3  | 100           | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100               | 5.54  | 0.71   | 1.06  | 1.77         | 7.31* |
| KYFA1306   | free                          | 3.8  | 49.3                  | 49.8  | 78            | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100               | 5.44  | 0.88   | 0.80  | 1.68         | 7.13* |
| FTF94  | free                          | 2.1  | 52.5                  | 56.0  | 86            | 86     | 89     | 89     | 95     | 95                | 4.78  | 0.98   | 1.13  | 2.10         | 6.88* |
| KYFA1304   | free                          | 2.9  | 49.8                  | 53.5  | 91            | 90     | 91     | 91     | 94     | 94                | 5.07  | 0.97   | 0.80  | 1.77         | 6.83* |
| KYFA9304   | free                          | 4.0  | 48.5                  | 52.0  | 99            | 99     | 99     | 99     | 99     | 99                | 4.85  | 0.87   | 1.09  | 1.96         | 6.80* |
| KYFA1405   | free                          | 2.8  | 46.3                  | 52.0  | 83            | 83     | 87     | 95     | 96     | 96                | 4.85  | 1.05   | 0.91  | 1.95         | 6.80* |
| KYFA1404   | free                          | 2.9  | 45.0                  | 50.3  | 98            | 98     | 98     | 99     | 99     | 99                | 4.60  | 1.02   | 1.02  | 2.04         | 6.64* |
| STF50  | free                          | 2.3  | 52.5                  | 53.0  | 93            | 91     | 93     | 93     | 93     | 93                | 4.49  | 1.17   | 0.84  | 2.01         | 6.50* |
| RAD-ERF37  | free                          | 3.3  | 51.5                  | 56.0  | 97            | 96     | 97     | 98     | 98     | 98                | 4.48  | 1.13   | 0.88  | 2.01         | 6.49* |
| KY31-  | free                          | 3.5  | 50.3                  | 52.5  | 100           | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100               | 4.38  | 0.83   | 0.96  | 1.79         | 6.17  |
| KYFP1301 (MF)                                      | free                          | 3.8  | 45.0                  | 45.0  | 98            | 98     | 98     | 97     | 81     | 81                | 4.42  | 0.69   | 0.77  | 1.46         | 5.87  |
| BARFA6BTR179                                       | free                          | 3.3  | 45.0                  | 46.8  | 98            | 98     | 99     | 98     | 96     | 96                | 3.86  | 0.82   | 0.81  | 1.63         | 5.49  |
| KYFA1606   | free                          | 1.0  | 45.0                  | 52.3  | 63            | 51     | 53     | 65     | 59     | 59                | 3.49  | 0.72   | 0.60  | 1.31         | 4.87  |
| Mean   |                               | 3.3  | 48.3                  | 51.8  | 94            | 94     | 95     | 96     | 93     | 93                | 4.77  | 0.92   | 0.89  | 1.81         | 6.59  |
| CV,%   |                               | 18.4   | 4.5                   | 5.2   | 14            | 10     | 8      | 8      | 9      | 9                 | 16.33 | 26.45  | 26.23 | 19.60        | 14.29 |
| LSD,0.05   |                               | 0.9  | 3.0                   | 3.8   | 19            | 13     | 11     | 11     | 11     | 11                | 1.11  | 0.35   | 0.33  | 0.50         | 1.35  |

<sup>1</sup> Free-varieties that do not contain an endophyte. Toxic-KY31+ contains a toxic endophyte. Novel-varieties that contain an endophyte that aids persistence . but is not toxic to cattle.

<sup>2</sup> Vigor score based on a scale of 1 to 5 with 5 being the most vigorous seedling growth.

<sup>3</sup> Maturity rating scale: 37=flag leaf emergence, 45=boot swollen, 50=beginning of inflorescence emergence, 58=complete emergence of inflorescence, 62=beginning of pollen shed. See Table 4 for complete scale.

\*Not significantly different from the highest numerical value in the column, based on the 0.05 LSD.

**Table 7. Dry matter yields, seedling vigor, maturity, and stand persistence of tall fescue and festulolium (FL) varieties sown September 4, 2018, at Lexington, Kentucky**

| Variety  | Endophyte Status <sup>1</sup> | Seedling Vigor <sup>2</sup><br>Sep 28, 2018 | Maturity <sup>3</sup><br>May 6 | Percent Stand |        |        | Yield (tons/acre) |        |       |
|--|-------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|---------------|--------|--------|-------------------|--------|-------|
|  |                               |   |                                | 2018          | 2019   |        | 2019              |        |       |
|  |                               |   |                                | Sep 28        | Mar 22 | Oct 17 | May 6             | Jun 24 | Total |
| <b>Commercial Varieties-Available for Farm Use</b> |                               |   |                                |               |        |        |                   |        |       |
| Cajun II   | free                          | 4.9   | 56.5                           | 100           | 100    | 100    | 1.68              | 1.69   | 3.37* |
| KY31+  | toxic                         | 4.9   | 55.5                           | 100           | 100    | 100    | 1.61              | 1.63   | 3.23* |
| Bull   | free                          | 4.5   | 57.5                           | 100           | 100    | 100    | 1.69              | 1.47   | 3.15* |
| Estancia Arkshield                                 | novel                         | 4.3   | 56.5                           | 100           | 100    | 100    | 1.60              | 1.55   | 3.15* |
| Lacefield MaxQII                                   | novel                         | 4.4   | 55.5                           | 100           | 100    | 100    | 1.48              | 1.58   | 3.07* |
| Jesup MaxQ   | novel                         | 4.8   | 56.5                           | 100           | 100    | 100    | 1.55              | 1.40   | 2.95* |
| SS0705TFSL   | free                          | 4.8   | 56.5                           | 100           | 100    | 100    | 1.45              | 1.24   | 2.69* |
| Kentucky 32  | free                          | 4.9   | 56.0                           | 100           | 100    | 100    | 1.33              | 1.32   | 2.65* |
| BarOptima PLUS E34                                 | novel                         | 4.8   | 52.0                           | 100           | 100    | 100    | 1.30              | 1.30   | 2.60  |
| <b>Experimental Varieties</b>                      |                               |   |                                |               |        |        |                   |        |       |
| KYFA9304   | free                          | 4.9   | 55.0                           | 100           | 100    | 100    | 1.49              | 1.70   | 3.19* |
| BARFAF137  | free                          | 4.5   | 51.5                           | 100           | 100    | 100    | 1.41              | 1.64   | 3.05* |
| KYFA9821/AR584                                     | novel                         | 4.8   | 56.0                           | 100           | 100    | 100    | 1.58              | 1.45   | 3.04* |
| B-18.1787  | free                          | 4.5   | 57.5                           | 100           | 100    | 100    | 1.57              | 1.42   | 2.99* |
| KY31-  | free                          | 5.0   | 55.0                           | 100           | 100    | 100    | 1.35              | 1.60   | 2.95* |
| FTF2(FL)   | free                          | 4.8   | 56.5                           | 100           | 100    | 100    | 1.39              | 1.49   | 2.88* |
| BARFAF135  | free                          | 4.9   | 53.0                           | 100           | 100    | 100    | 1.34              | 1.52   | 2.87* |
| KYFA9611   | free                          | 4.6   | 52.0                           | 100           | 100    | 100    | 1.21              | 1.62   | 2.83* |
| KYFA1704   | free                          | 4.8   | 54.0                           | 100           | 100    | 100    | 1.20              | 1.53   | 2.72* |
| 7016   | free                          | 4.9   | 56.0                           | 100           | 100    | 100    | 1.48              | 1.23   | 2.70* |
| FTF89  | free                          | 4.9   | 57.0                           | 100           | 100    | 100    | 1.47              | 1.18   | 2.65* |
| 7FACF82  | free                          | 5.0   | 51.0                           | 100           | 100    | 100    | 1.20              | 1.41   | 2.62  |
| BARFAF131  | free                          | 3.4   | 55.0                           | 100           | 100    | 100    | 1.44              | 1.15   | 2.59  |
| BARFABTR7NEA23                                     | novel                         | 3.9   | 54.0                           | 100           | 100    | 100    | 1.24              | 1.27   | 2.50  |
| RADMRF20   | free                          | 4.8   | 54.5                           | 100           | 100    | 100    | 1.27              | 1.22   | 2.49  |
| BARFA6BR-179                                       | free                          | 4.3   | 50.5                           | 100           | 99     | 99     | 0.95              | 1.31   | 2.26  |
| SLTF10-3   | free                          | 4.6   | 54.5                           | 100           | 100    | 100    | 0.90              | 1.19   | 2.09  |
| Mean   |                               | 4.6   | 54.8                           | 100           | 100    | 100    | 1.39              | 1.43   | 2.82  |
| CV,%   |                               | 6.2   | 2.0                            | 0             | 0      | 0      | 22.45             | 16.76  | 18.22 |
| LSD,0.05   |                               | 0.4   | 1.6                            | 0             | 1      | 1      | 0.44              | 0.34   | 0.72  |

<sup>1</sup> Free-varieties that do not contain an endophyte. Toxic-KY31+ contains a toxic endophyte. Novel-varieties that contain an endophyte that aids persistence but is not toxic to cattle.

<sup>2</sup> Vigor score based on a scale of 1 to 5 with 5 being the most vigorous seedling growth.

<sup>3</sup> Maturity rating scale: 37=flag leaf emergence, 45=boot swollen, 50=beginning of inflorescence emergence, 58=complete emergence of inflorescence, 62=beginning of pollen shed. See Table 4 for complete scale.

\*Not significantly different from the highest numerical value in the column, based on the 0.05 LSD.

differences or just to chance. In the tables, varieties that are not significantly different from the top variety in the column for that characteristic are marked with one asterisk (\*). To determine if two varieties are truly different, compare the difference between them and the LSD (least significant difference) at the bottom of the column. If the difference is equal to or greater than the LSD, the varieties are truly different when grown under the conditions at the given locations. The coefficient of variation (CV) is a measure of the variability of the data and is included for each column of means. Low variability is desirable, and increased variability within a study results in higher CVs and larger LSDs.

Tables 14 and 15 show information about proprietors/distributors for all varieties included in the tests discussed in this report. Varieties are listed in alphabetical order by species, with the experimental varieties at the bottom. Remember that experimental varieties are not available for farm use; commercial varieties can be purchased from agricultural distributors. Remember to consider the relative spring maturity and the distribution of yield across the growing season when evaluating productivity of tall fescue and brome-grass varieties (Tables 5 through 13).

Tables 16 and 17 are summaries of yield data from 2000 to 2019 for tall fescue and from 2006 to 2019 for brome-

grass commercial varieties that have been entered in the Kentucky trials. The data is listed as a percentage of the mean of the commercial varieties entered in each specific trial. In other words, the mean for each trial is 100 percent—varieties with percentages over 100 yielded better than average and varieties with percentages less than 100 yielded lower than average. Direct statistical comparisons of varieties cannot be made using the Table 16 and 17 summaries, but these comparisons do help to identify varieties for further consideration. Varieties that have performed better than average over many years and at several locations have very stable performance, while others may have performed very well in wet years

**Table 8. Dry matter yields, seedling vigor, maturity, and stand persistence of tall fescue varieties sown September 22, 2017, at Princeton, Kentucky**

| Variety  | Endophyte Status <sup>1</sup> | Seedling Vigor <sup>2</sup> Nov 14 | Maturity <sup>3</sup> 2019 May 7 | Percent Stand |       |        |       |       | Yield (tons/acre) <sup>4</sup> |        |        |       |       |
|--|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------|-------|--------|-------|-------|--------------------------------|--------|--------|-------|-------|
|  |                               |                                    |                                  | 2017          |       | 2018   |       | 2019  |                                | 2019   |        |       | Total |
|  |                               |                                    |                                  | Nov 14        | Apr 5 | Oct 11 | Apr 3 | Nov 4 | May 7                          | Jun 21 | Aug 14 |       |       |
| <b>Commercial Varieties-Available for Farm Use</b> |                               |                                    |                                  |               |       |        |       |       |                                |        |        |       |       |
| Lacefield MaxQII                                   | novel                         | 3.4                                | 56.0                             | 99            | 95    | 96     | 99    | 99    | 1.71                           | 0.98   | 0.58   | 3.27* |       |
| Cajun II   | free                          | 2.9                                | 56.5                             | 98            | 91    | 93     | 99    | 99    | 1.83                           | 1.01   | 0.46   | 3.24* |       |
| SS0705TFSL   | free                          | 3.5                                | 56.0                             | 100           | 98    | 98     | 100   | 100   | 1.52                           | 1.05   | 0.65   | 3.22* |       |
| Jesup MaxQ   | novel                         | 3.8                                | 56.5                             | 100           | 99    | 99     | 100   | 100   | 1.50                           | 1.13   | 0.44   | 3.19* |       |
| BarOptima PLUS E34                                 | novel                         | 3.5                                | 53.5                             | 100           | 98    | 98     | 98    | 98    | 1.59                           | 1.01   | 0.56   | 3.16* |       |
| KY31+  | toxic                         | 3.5                                | 54.5                             | 100           | 99    | 100    | 99    | 99    | 1.46                           | 0.98   | 0.47   | 2.91  |       |
| <b>Experimental Varieties</b>                      |                               |                                    |                                  |               |       |        |       |       |                                |        |        |       |       |
| KYFA1405   | free                          | 3.0                                | 56.0                             | 99            | 98    | 98     | 99    | 98    | 1.69                           | 1.11   | 0.71   | 3.51* |       |
| FTF94  | free                          | 2.6                                | 57.5                             | 95            | 86    | 86     | 96    | 96    | 1.90                           | 0.84   | 0.55   | 3.29* |       |
| KY31-  | free                          | 3.8                                | 54.5                             | 100           | 98    | 98     | 99    | 99    | 1.55                           | 1.03   | 0.67   | 3.24* |       |
| KYFA1304   | free                          | 3.0                                | 57.5                             | 96            | 88    | 88     | 98    | 94    | 1.73                           | 0.96   | 0.51   | 3.20* |       |
| STF50  | free                          | 3.4                                | 57.0                             | 100           | 97    | 98     | 99    | 99    | 1.85                           | 0.89   | 0.43   | 3.18* |       |
| RAD-ERF37  | free                          | 3.3                                | 57.5                             | 99            | 87    | 88     | 97    | 93    | 1.86                           | 0.87   | 0.44   | 3.17* |       |
| KYFA1305   | free                          | 3.6                                | 54.5                             | 100           | 96    | 96     | 99    | 99    | 1.58                           | 1.00   | 0.56   | 3.15* |       |
| KYFA1404   | free                          | 3.0                                | 55.5                             | 99            | 95    | 96     | 98    | 76    | 1.71                           | 0.95   | 0.31   | 3.01* |       |
| KYFP1301   | free                          | 4.1                                | 52.5                             | 100           | 99    | 93     | 84    | 61    | 1.19                           | 1.15   | 0.37   | 2.89  |       |
| KYFA1306   | free                          | 3.4                                | 54.5                             | 100           | 98    | 98     | 77    | 100   | 1.53                           | 1.00   | 0.22   | 2.82  |       |
| KYFA9304   | free                          | 3.0                                | 54.5                             | 98            | 95    | 94     | 99    | 99    | 1.40                           | 0.95   | 0.39   | 2.80  |       |
| KYFA1606   | free                          | 3.0                                | 57.0                             | 99            | 28    | 30     | 24    | 24    | 0.66                           | 1.15   | 0.72   | 2.53  |       |
| Mean   |                               | 3.3                                | 55.6                             | 99            | 91    | 91     | 92    | 91    | 1.57                           | 1.00   | 0.51   | 3.11  |       |
| CV,%   |                               | 17.3                               | 2.0                              | 2             | 9     | 9      | 12    | 13    | 14.64                          | 18.61  | 41.03  | 12.04 |       |
| LSD,0.05   |                               | 0.8                                | 1.6                              | 3             | 11    | 12     | 15    | 17    | 0.33                           | 0.27   | 0.30   | 0.56  |       |

<sup>1</sup> Free-varieties that do not contain an endophyte. Toxic-KY31+ contains a toxic endophyte. Novel-varieties that contain an endophyte that aids persistence but is not toxic to cattle.

<sup>2</sup> Vigor score based on a scale of 1 to 5 with 5 being the most vigorous seedling growth.

<sup>3</sup> Maturity rating scale: 37=flag leaf emergence, 45=boot swollen, 50=beginning of inflorescence emergence, 58=complete emergence of inflorescence, 62=beginning of pollen shed. See Table 4 for complete scale.

<sup>4</sup> Due to mechanical and other issues, the 2018 yield data is not reported.

\*Not significantly different from the highest numerical value in the column, based on the 0.05 LSD.

**Table 9. Dry matter yields, seedling vigor, and stand persistence of tall fescue varieties sown September 2, 2016, at Quicksand, Kentucky**

| Variety  | Endophyte Status <sup>1</sup> | Seedling Vigor <sup>2</sup> Nov 3, 2016 | Percent Stand |        |       |       |       |        |        | Yield (tons/acre) |       |        |        |        |       | 3-year Total |  |
|--|-------------------------------|---|---------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|-------------------|-------|--------|--------|--------|-------|--------------|--|
|  |                               |   | 2016          |        | 2017  |       | 2018  |        | 2019   |                   | 2017  |        | 2018   |        | 2019  |              |  |
|  |                               |   | Nov 3         | Mar 24 | Nov 8 | Apr 4 | Oct 5 | Mar 15 | Oct 23 | Total             | Total | Apr 30 | Jun 27 | Sep 15 | Total |              |  |
| <b>Commercial Varieties-Available for Farm Use</b> |                               |   |               |        |       |       |       |        |        |                   |       |        |        |        |       |              |  |
| BarOptima PLUS E34                                 | novel                         | 4.9                                     | 100           | 100    | 100   | 100   | 100   | 99     | 97     | 6.90              | 3.72  | 1.19   | 1.25   | 0.47   | 2.92  | 13.54*       |  |
| Jesup MaxQ   | novel                         | 4.1                                     | 99            | 99     | 99    | 99    | 100   | 100    | 100    | 6.88              | 3.42  | 0.92   | 1.09   | 0.92   | 2.93  | 13.22*       |  |
| Payload  | free                          | 4.0                                     | 98            | 98     | 98    | 98    | 98    | 98     | 98     | 6.19              | 3.82  | 0.87   | 1.05   | 0.77   | 2.69  | 12.70*       |  |
| KY31+  | toxic                         | 3.3                                     | 98            | 97     | 98    | 98    | 98    | 98     | 98     | 5.87              | 3.51  | 1.00   | 1.33   | 0.86   | 3.19  | 12.57*       |  |
| Martin2 Protek                                     | novel                         | 4.1                                     | 98            | 98     | 98    | 98    | 98    | 99     | 99     | 6.65              | 3.12  | 0.99   | 0.92   | 0.49   | 2.40  | 12.17*       |  |
| Estancia Arkshield                                 | novel                         | 4.4                                     | 100           | 100    | 100   | 99    | 99    | 99     | 99     | 6.14              | 3.15  | 0.71   | 1.10   | 0.67   | 2.49  | 11.78*       |  |
| Lacefield MaxQII                                   | novel                         | 4.3                                     | 100           | 100    | 100   | 100   | 100   | 100    | 100    | 5.67              | 3.33  | 0.78   | 1.09   | 0.84   | 2.71  | 11.71*       |  |
| SS0705TFSL   | free                          | 2.4                                     | 95            | 95     | 95    | 96    | 96    | 97     | 97     | 6.25              | 2.98  | 0.62   | 1.07   | 0.59   | 2.29  | 11.52*       |  |
| Cajun II   | free                          | 3.0                                     | 97            | 96     | 97    | 97    | 97    | 98     | 93     | 5.99              | 2.62  | 0.84   | 1.02   | 0.55   | 2.41  | 11.02*       |  |
| Tower  | free                          | 2.0                                     | 91            | 90     | 94    | 93    | 93    | 91     | 83     | 5.54              | 2.92  | 0.76   | 0.95   | 0.27   | 1.98  | 10.45*       |  |
| Teton II   | free                          | 3.3                                     | 99            | 98     | 98    | 97    | 98    | 99     | 98     | 5.44              | 2.75  | 0.79   | 0.83   | 0.62   | 2.24  | 10.43*       |  |
| Select   | free                          | 2.8                                     | 96            | 96     | 96    | 96    | 96    | 97     | 96     | 5.12              | 2.40  | 0.84   | 0.86   | 0.66   | 2.35  | 9.87         |  |
| Kora Protek  | novel                         | 4.4                                     | 100           | 100    | 100   | 100   | 100   | 100    | 99     | 5.57              | 2.39  | 0.59   | 0.93   | 0.36   | 1.89  | 9.84         |  |
| Tower Protek                                       | novel                         | 2.8                                     | 99            | 96     | 98    | 98    | 98    | 98     | 96     | 5.09              | 2.13  | 0.51   | 0.93   | 0.56   | 2.00  | 9.21         |  |
| <b>Experimental Varieties</b>                      |                               |   |               |        |       |       |       |        |        |                   |       |        |        |        |       |              |  |
| TF0503   | free                          | 3.6                                     | 98            | 97     | 98    | 98    | 98    | 99     | 99     | 6.62              | 3.95  | 0.92   | 1.32   | 0.86   | 3.10  | 13.67*       |  |
| KY31-  | free                          | 3.5                                     | 98            | 97     | 98    | 98    | 99    | 99     | 99     | 5.94              | 3.53  | 0.74   | 1.06   | 1.10   | 2.90  | 12.37*       |  |
| PPG-FTF112   | free                          | 2.6                                     | 90            | 89     | 91    | 94    | 94    | 91     | 88     | 5.01              | 2.46  | 0.76   | 0.98   | 0.44   | 2.18  | 9.64         |  |
| SLTF10-3   | free                          | 3.5                                     | 97            | 96     | 96    | 95    | 95    | 95     | 88     | 5.02              | 2.02  | 0.64   | 0.84   | 0.37   | 1.85  | 8.89         |  |
| Mean   |                               | 3.5                                     | 97            | 97     | 97    | 97    | 97    | 97     | 96     | 5.88              | 3.01  | 0.80   | 1.03   | 0.63   | 2.47  | 11.37        |  |
| CV,%   |                               | 28.0                                    | 3             | 4      | 3     | 2     | 2     | 3      | 5      | 18.01             | 25.19 | 24.81  | 24.42  | 38.74  | 22.30 | 17.41        |  |
| LSD,0.05   |                               | 1.4                                     | 4             | 5      | 4     | 3     | 3     | 3      | 7      | 1.50              | 1.08  | 0.28   | 0.36   | 0.35   | 0.78  | 2.81         |  |

<sup>1</sup> Free-varieties that do not contain an endophyte. Toxic-KY31+ contains a toxic endophyte. Novel-varieties that contain an endophyte that aids persistence but is not toxic to cattle.

<sup>2</sup> Vigor score based on a scale of 1 to 5 with 5 being the most vigorous seedling growth.

\*Not significantly different from the highest numerical value in the column, based on the 0.05 LSD.

**Table 10. Dry matter yields, seedling vigor and stand persistence of tall fescue and festulolium (FL) varieties sown September 7, 2018, at Quicksand, Kentucky**

| Variety  | Endophyte Status <sup>1</sup> | Seedling Vigor <sup>2</sup> Oct 5 | Percent Stand |        |        | Yield (tons/acre) |        |       |       |
|--|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|--------|--------|-------------------|--------|-------|-------|
|  |                               |                                   | 2018          | 2019   |        | 2019              |        |       |       |
|  |                               |                                   | Oct 5         | Mar 15 | Oct 23 | May 1             | Jun 26 | Sep3  | Total |
| <b>Commercial Varieties-Available for Farm Use</b> |                               |                                   |               |        |        |                   |        |       |       |
| KY31+  | toxic                         | 4.9                               | 100           | 100    | 100    | 0.99              | 1.66   | 0.83  | 3.48* |
| Jesup MaxQ   | novel                         | 4.1                               | 100           | 100    | 100    | 0.82              | 1.65   | 0.87  | 3.33* |
| Cajun II   | free                          | 4.5                               | 100           | 100    | 100    | 0.71              | 1.34   | 1.06  | 3.11  |
| SS0705TFSL   | free                          | 4.1                               | 100           | 100    | 96     | 0.73              | 1.44   | 0.93  | 3.11  |
| Lacefield MaxQII                                   | novel                         | 4.4                               | 100           | 100    | 98     | 0.62              | 1.50   | 0.97  | 3.10  |
| BarOptima PLUS E34                                 | novel                         | 4.0                               | 100           | 100    | 91     | 0.57              | 1.28   | 0.74  | 2.59  |
| <b>Experimental Varieties</b>                      |                               |                                   |               |        |        |                   |        |       |       |
| KYFA9821/AR584                                     | novel                         | 4.5                               | 100           | 100    | 99     | 1.18              | 1.80   | 1.51  | 4.49* |
| B-18.1787  | free                          | 4.0                               | 100           | 100    | 100    | 1.12              | 1.58   | 1.37  | 4.07* |
| KYFA9611   | free                          | 4.6                               | 100           | 100    | 99     | 0.85              | 1.92   | 1.10  | 3.87* |
| KYFA9304   | free                          | 4.8                               | 100           | 100    | 100    | 0.94              | 1.64   | 1.11  | 3.68* |
| BARFAF131  | free                          | 3.5                               | 94            | 99     | 96     | 0.70              | 1.58   | 1.10  | 3.38* |
| FTF89  | free                          | 4.9                               | 100           | 100    | 100    | 0.87              | 1.55   | 0.91  | 3.33* |
| KY31-  | free                          | 4.6                               | 99            | 100    | 100    | 0.78              | 1.55   | 0.97  | 3.31* |
| 7016   | free                          | 4.4                               | 100           | 100    | 99     | 0.91              | 1.38   | 0.86  | 3.15  |
| KYFA1704   | free                          | 5.0                               | 100           | 100    | 100    | 0.81              | 1.31   | 0.84  | 2.95  |
| BARFA6BR-179                                       | free                          | 3.9                               | 100           | 97     | 65     | 0.49              | 0.98   | 1.27  | 2.74  |
| BARFAF137  | free                          | 4.6                               | 100           | 100    | 94     | 0.72              | 1.19   | 0.69  | 2.61  |
| FTF2(FL)   | free                          | 4.0                               | 98            | 100    | 96     | 0.51              | 1.20   | 0.81  | 2.52  |
| 7FACF82  | free                          | 4.6                               | 100           | 100    | 67     | 0.36              | 0.99   | 0.70  | 2.05  |
| RADMRF20   | free                          | 4.8                               | 100           | 100    | 100    | 0.36              | 0.86   | 0.82  | 2.04  |
| BARFAF135  | free                          | 4.6                               | 100           | 100    | 95     | 0.35              | 0.84   | 0.64  | 1.84  |
| BARFABTR7NEA23                                     | novel                         | 4.0                               | 100           | 88     | 87     | 0.30              | 0.86   | 0.58  | 1.74  |
| Mean   |                               | 4.4                               | 100           | 99     | 94     | 0.71              | 1.37   | 0.94  | 3.02  |
| CV,%   |                               | 11.5                              | 2             | 5      | 14     | 42.01             | 26.99  | 37.03 | 27.72 |
| LSD,0.05   |                               | 0.7                               | 3             | 8      | 18     | 0.42              | 0.52   | 0.49  | 1.18  |

<sup>1</sup> Free-varieties that do not contain an endophyte. Toxic-KY31+ contains a toxic endophyte. Novel-varieties that contain an endophyte that aids persistence but is not toxic to cattle.

<sup>2</sup> Vigor score based on a scale of 1 to 5 with 5 being the most vigorous seedling growth.

\*Not significantly different from the highest numerical value in the column, based on the 0.05 LSD.

or on particular soil types. These details may influence variety choice, and the information can be found in the yearly reports. See the footnotes in Tables 16 and 17 to determine the yearly report that should be referenced.

## Summary

Selecting a good variety of tall fescue and brome grass is an important first step in establishing a productive stand of grass. Proper management, beginning with seedbed preparation and continuing throughout the life of the stand, is necessary for even the highest-yielding variety to produce to its genetic potential.

The following is a list of University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension publications related to tall fescue management available from your county Extension office and are listed in the "Publications" section of the UK Forage website, forages.ca.uky.edu:

- Lime and Fertilizer Recommendations (AGR-1)
- Grain and Forage Crop Guide for Kentucky (AGR-18)
- Tall Fescue (AGR-59)
- Establishing Forage Crops (AGR-64)
- Tall Fescue in Kentucky (AGR-108)
- Forage Identification and Use Guide (AGR-175)
- Rotational Grazing (ID-143)

## About the Authors

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Table 11. Dry matter yields, seedling vigor, maturity, and stand persistence of bromegrass varieties sown September 8, 2016, at Lexington, Kentucky

| Variety  | Type   | Seedling Vigor <sup>1</sup><br>Oct 15,<br>2016 | Maturity <sup>2</sup> |       |        |       |       |       | Percent Stand |        |        |        |        |        | Yield (tons/acre) |       |       |        |       |    |    |       |       |       |       |       |       |        |        |
|--|--------|--|-----------------------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|---------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------------------|-------|-------|--------|-------|----|----|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|
|  |        |  | 2017                  |       | 2018   |       | 2019  |       | 2017          |        | 2018   |        | 2019   |        | 2017              |       | 2018  |        | 2019  |    |    |       |       |       |       |       |       |        |        |
|  |        |  | Apr 20                | May 9 | Jun 15 | May 2 | Jun 6 | Oct 5 | Mar 14        | Oct 31 | Mar 15 | Oct 10 | Mar 22 | Oct 18 | Total             | May 2 | Jun 6 | Aug 12 | Total |    |    |       |       |       |       |       |       |        |        |
| <b>Commercial Varieties-Available for Farm Use</b> |        |  |                       |       |        |       |       |       |               |        |        |        |        |        |                   |       |       |        |       |    |    |       |       |       |       |       |       |        |        |
| Admiral  | meadow | 4.6  | 56.0                  | 55.5  | 60.0   | 60.0  | 97    | 98    | 98            | 98     | 98     | 98     | 96     | 96     | 98                | 96    | 96    | 96     | 98    | 98 | 96 | 96    | 5.73  | 3.45  | 0.50  | 1.04  | 1.33  | 2.87   | 12.05* |
| MacBeth  | meadow | 4.1  | 56.0                  | 54.5  | 60.0   | 60.0  | 97    | 99    | 99            | 99     | 99     | 99     | 98     | 98     | 99                | 98    | 98    | 98     | 99    | 99 | 98 | 98    | 5.75  | 3.44  | 0.56  | 0.97  | 1.15  | 2.67   | 11.87* |
| Arid   | meadow | 3.8  | 48.5                  | 52.0  | 29.0   | 60.0  | 94    | 94    | 96            | 96     | 94     | 94     | 96     | 96     | 96                | 96    | 96    | 96     | 96    | 96 | 96 | 96    | 4.98  | 3.58  | 0.61  | 0.98  | 1.17  | 2.75   | 11.31* |
| Peak   | smooth | 3.4  | 45.0                  | 52.5  | 59.5   | 46.3  | 60.0  | 93    | 92            | 93     | 92     | 94     | 94     | 94     | 86                | 94    | 94    | 94     | 94    | 94 | 94 | 4.87  | 3.51  | 0.55  | 1.05  | 1.16  | 2.76  | 11.14* |        |
| Mean   |        | 4.0  | 51.4                  | 53.6  | 52.1   | 50.1  | 60.0  | 95    | 96            | 96     | 96     | 96     | 96     | 96     | 97                | 96    | 96    | 96     | 96    | 96 | 96 | 5.33  | 3.49  | 0.55  | 1.01  | 1.20  | 2.76  | 11.59  |        |
| CV%  |        | 20.6   | 4.2                   | 3.1   | 1.0    | 3.5   | 0.0   | 4     | 2             | 2      | 2      | 2      | 2      | 2      | 2                 | 2     | 2     | 2      | 2     | 2  | 2  | 10.19 | 12.59 | 21.65 | 15.49 | 18.62 | 15.50 | 3.67   |        |
| LSD <sub>0.05</sub>                                |        | 1.3  | 3.5                   | 2.6   | 0.8    | 2.8   | 0.0   | 6     | 4             | 3      | 3      | 3      | 4      | 4      | 3                 | 3     | 4     | 4      | 4     | 4  | 4  | 0.87  | 0.70  | 0.19  | 0.25  | 0.36  | 0.69  | 1.29   |        |

1 Vigor score based on a scale of 1 to 5 with 5 being the most vigorous seedling growth.

2 Maturity rating scale: 37=flag leaf emergence, 45=boot swollen, 50=beginning of inflorescence emergence, 58=complete emergence of inflorescence, 62=beginning of pollen shed. See Table 4 for complete scale.

\*Not significantly different from the highest numerical value in the column, based on the 0.05 LSD.

Table 12. Dry matter yields, seedling vigor, maturity, and stand persistence of bromegrass varieties sown September 8, 2017, at Lexington, Kentucky

| Variety  | Type   | Seedling Vigor <sup>1</sup><br>Oct 12,<br>2017 | Maturity <sup>2</sup> |        |       |       |       |        | Percent Stand |        |        |        |       |       | Yield (tons/acre) |        |       |    |      |    |      |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|--|--------|--|-----------------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|--------|---------------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------------------|--------|-------|----|------|----|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|  |        |  | 2018                  |        | 2019  |       | 2019  |        | 2017          |        | 2018   |        | 2019  |       | 2018              |        | 2019  |    | 2018 |    | 2019 |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|  |        |  | May 8                 | Jun 15 | May 2 | Jun 6 | Oct 6 | Oct 12 | Mar 14        | Oct 18 | Mar 22 | Oct 18 | Total | May 2 | Jun 6             | Aug 12 | Total |    |      |    |      |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| <b>Commercial Varieties-Available for Farm Use</b> |        |  |                       |        |       |       |       |        |               |        |        |        |       |       |                   |        |       |    |      |    |      |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| Macbeth  | meadow | 2.9  | 55.0                  | 29.0   | 56.0  | 60.0  | 98    | 92     | 97            | 94     | 94     | 94     | 94    | 94    | 94                | 94     | 94    | 94 | 94   | 94 | 94   | 5.70  | 0.87  | 0.93  | 1.20  | 3.00  | 8.70* |
| Admiral  | meadow | 4.0  | 55.0                  | 29.0   | 56.0  | 60.0  | 100   | 96     | 99            | 99     | 99     | 99     | 99    | 99    | 99                | 99     | 99    | 99 | 99   | 99 | 99   | 5.71  | 0.79  | 0.83  | 1.10  | 2.72  | 8.43* |
| Arid   | meadow | 2.1  | 46.3                  | 29.0   | 45.0  | 60.0  | 94    | 88     | 92            | 93     | 92     | 93     | 95    | 95    | 95                | 95     | 95    | 95 | 95   | 95 | 95   | 4.38  | 0.82  | 0.76  | 1.32  | 2.90  | 7.28  |
| Peak   | smooth | 2.9  | 48.0                  | 29.0   | 45.0  | 60.0  | 98    | 95     | 97            | 97     | 97     | 97     | 97    | 97    | 97                | 97     | 97    | 97 | 97   | 97 | 97   | 4.58  | 0.63  | 0.76  | 0.86  | 2.25  | 6.83  |
| <b>Experimental Varieties</b>                      |        |  |                       |        |       |       |       |        |               |        |        |        |       |       |                   |        |       |    |      |    |      |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| MB1303   | meadow | 3.1  | 56.0                  | 29.0   | 56.5  | 60.0  | 99    | 98     | 99            | 97     | 98     | 98     | 98    | 98    | 98                | 98     | 98    | 98 | 98   | 98 | 98   | 5.77  | 0.82  | 0.89  | 1.36  | 3.07  | 8.85* |
| MB1302   | meadow | 3.0  | 54.5                  | 29.0   | 53.5  | 60.0  | 98    | 95     | 97            | 95     | 95     | 95     | 95    | 95    | 95                | 95     | 95    | 95 | 95   | 95 | 95   | 5.86  | 0.90  | 0.89  | 1.02  | 2.81  | 8.67* |
| Mean   |        | 3.0  | 52.5                  | 29.0   | 52.0  | 60.0  | 98    | 94     | 97            | 95     | 96     | 96     | 96    | 96    | 96                | 96     | 96    | 96 | 96   | 96 | 96   | 5.33  | 0.81  | 0.84  | 1.14  | 2.79  | 8.12  |
| CV%  |        | 17.0   | 3.4                   | 0.0    | 1.9   | 0.0   | 1     | 6      | 3             | 3      | 3      | 2      | 2     | 2     | 2                 | 2      | 2     | 2  | 2    | 2  | 2    | 10.70 | 21.73 | 16.56 | 19.81 | 16.38 | 11.45 |
| LSD <sub>0.05</sub>                                |        | 0.8  | 2.7                   | 0.0    | 1.5   | 0.0   | 2     | 9      | 4             | 4      | 4      | 3      | 3     | 3     | 3                 | 4      | 4     | 4  | 4    | 4  | 4    | 0.86  | 0.26  | 0.21  | 0.34  | 0.69  | 1.35  |

1 Vigor score based on a scale of 1 to 5 with 5 being the most vigorous seedling growth.

2 Maturity rating scale: 37=flag leaf emergence, 45=boot swollen, 50=beginning of inflorescence emergence, 58=complete emergence of inflorescence, 62=beginning of pollen shed. See Table 4 for complete scale.

\*Not significantly different from the highest numerical value in the column, based on the 0.05 LSD.

**Table 13. Dry matter yields, seedling vigor, maturity, and stand persistence of bromegrass varieties sown September 5, 2018, at Lexington, Kentucky**

| Variety  | Type   | Seedling Vigor <sup>1</sup><br>Sep 28, 2018 | Maturity <sup>2</sup> |       | Percent Stand |        |        | Yield (tons/acre) |       |        |       |
|--|--------|---|-----------------------|-------|---------------|--------|--------|-------------------|-------|--------|-------|
|  |        |   | 2019                  |       | 2018          | 2019   |        | 2019              |       |        |       |
|  |        |   | May 2                 | Jun 6 | Sep 28        | Mar 22 | Oct 18 | May 2             | Jun 6 | Aug 12 | Total |
| <b>Commercial Varieties-Available for Farm Use</b> |        |   |                       |       |               |        |        |                   |       |        |       |
| Arsenal  | meadow | 3.9   | 57.5                  | 44.5  | 94            | 97     | 97     | 1.98              | 0.82  | 1.25   | 4.05* |
| Admiral  | meadow | 4.3   | 56.0                  | 44.5  | 96            | 98     | 98     | 2.02              | 0.95  | 1.07   | 4.04* |
| Peak   | smooth | 4.6   | 49.0                  | 29.0  | 98            | 98     | 98     | 1.91              | 0.87  | 1.17   | 3.96* |
| Macbeth  | meadow | 3.4   | 55.0                  | 52.3  | 92            | 97     | 97     | 1.72              | 0.89  | 1.22   | 3.83* |
| Artillery  | meadow | 4.8   | 46.3                  | 29.0  | 97            | 98     | 98     | 1.78              | 0.68  | 1.32   | 3.78* |
| Carlton  | smooth | 4.0   | 45.0                  | 60.0  | 95            | 95     | 97     | 0.81              | 1.05  | 0.99   | 2.85  |
| Mean   |        | 4.2   | 51.6                  | 38.0  | 95            | 97     | 98     | 1.75              | 0.87  | 1.18   | 3.80  |
| CV,%   |        | 14.1  | 3.6                   | 0.0   | 3             | 2      | 1      | 15.25             | 15.39 | 19.13  | 8.37  |
| LSD,0.05   |        | 0.9   | 2.8                   | 0.0   | 4             | 3      | 2      | 0.40              | 0.20  | 0.36   | 0.48  |

<sup>1</sup> Vigor score based on a scale of 1 to 5 with 5 being the most vigorous seedling growth.

<sup>2</sup> Maturity rating scale: 37=flag leaf emergence, 45=boot swollen, 50=beginning of inflorescence emergence, 58=complete emergence of inflorescence, 62=beginning of pollen shed. See Table 4 for complete scale.

\*Not significantly different from the highest numerical value in the column, based on the 0.05 LSD.

**Table 14. Proprietors of tall fescue varieties in current trials**

| Variety  | Endophyte Status <sup>1</sup> | Proprietor/KY Distributor     |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Commercial Varieties-Available for Farm Use</b> |                               |                               |
| BarOptima PLUS E34                                 | novel                         | Barenbrug USA                 |
| Bronson  | free                          | Ampac Seed                    |
| Bull   | free                          | Improved Forages              |
| Cajun II   | free                          | Smith Seed Services           |
| Estancia Arkshield                                 | novel                         | Mountain View Seeds           |
| Kentucky 32  | free                          | Oregro Seeds                  |
| Kora Protek  | novel                         | DLF-Pickseed                  |
| KY31+  | toxic                         | Ky Agric. Exp. Station/Public |
| Jesup MaxQ   | novel                         | Pennington Seed               |
| Lacefield MaxQ II                                  | novel                         | Pennington Seed               |
| Martin 2 Protek                                    | novel                         | DLF-Pickseed                  |
| Payload  | free                          | Brett Young                   |
| Select   | free                          | Southern States               |
| SS-0705TFSL  | free                          | Southern States               |
| Teton II   | free                          | Mountain View Seeds           |
| Tower  | free                          | DLF-Pickseed                  |
| Tower Protek                                       | novel                         | DLF-Pickseed                  |
| <b>Experimental Varieties<sup>1</sup></b>          |                               |                               |
| BARFABTR7NEA23                                     | novel                         | Barenbrug USA                 |
| BARFAF131  | free                          | Barenbrug USA                 |
| BARFAF135  | free                          | Barenbrug USA                 |
| BARFAF137  | free                          | Barenbrug USA                 |
| BARFA6BTR179                                       | free                          | Barenbrug USA                 |
| B-18.1787  | free                          | Blue Moon Farms               |
| DLFPS-FTF-93                                       | free                          | DLF-Pickseed                  |
| DLFPS-FTF-96                                       | free                          | DLF-Pickseed                  |
| FTF89  | free                          | DLF-Pickseed                  |
| FTF94  | free                          | DLF-Pickseed                  |
| IS-FTF 54 Protek                                   | novel                         | DLF-Pickseed                  |
| IS-FTF 70  | free                          | DLF-Pickseed                  |
| IS-FTF 73  | free                          | DLF-Pickseed                  |
| KY31-  | free                          | KY Agric. Exp. Station        |
| KYFA1201   | free                          | KY Agric. Exp. Station        |

continued

**Table 14. continued**

| Variety        | Endophyte Status <sup>1</sup> | Proprietor/KY Distributor |
|----------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| KYFA1303       | free                          | KY Agric. Exp. Station    |
| KYFA1304       | free                          | KY Agric. Exp. Station    |
| KYFA1305       | free                          | KY Agric. Exp. Station    |
| KYFA1306       | free                          | KY Agric. Exp. Station    |
| KYFA1404       | free                          | KY Agric. Exp. Station    |
| KYFA1405       | free                          | KY Agric. Exp. Station    |
| KYFA1531       | free                          | KY Agric. Exp. Station    |
| KYFA1532       | free                          | KY Agric. Exp. Station    |
| KYFA1533       | free                          | KY Agric. Exp. Station    |
| KYFA1534       | free                          | KY Agric. Exp. Station    |
| KYFA1535       | free                          | KY Agric. Exp. Station    |
| KYFA1536       | free                          | KY Agric. Exp. Station    |
| KYFA1537       | free                          | KY Agric. Exp. Station    |
| KYFA1606       | free                          | KY Agric. Exp. Station    |
| KYFA1704       | free                          | KY Agric. Exp. Station    |
| KYFA9304       | free                          | KY Agric. Exp. Station    |
| KYFA9611       | free                          | KY Agric. Exp. Station    |
| KYFA9732/AR584 | novel                         | KY Agric. Exp. Station    |
| KYFA9821/AR584 | novel                         | KY Agric. Exp. Station    |
| PPG-FTF 112    | free                          | Mountain View Seeds       |
| RAD-ERF37      | free                          | Radix Research            |
| RAD-HAN19      | free                          | Radix Research            |
| RAD-HAN33      | free                          | Radix Research            |
| RADMRF20       | free                          | Radix Research            |
| SLTF10-3       | free                          | Oregro Seeds              |
| STF50          | free                          | Smith Seed Services       |
| TFCB1bC2       | free                          | USDA-ARS                  |
| TFCB3C2        | free                          | USDA-ARS                  |
| TFCB4C2        | free                          | USDA-ARS                  |
| TFCB5C2        | free                          | USDA-ARS                  |
| TF Soft        | free                          | USDA-ARS                  |
| TF0503         | free                          | USDA-ARS                  |
| 7016           | free                          | KY Agric. Exp. Station    |
| 7FACF82        | free                          | Barenbrug USA             |

<sup>1</sup> Experimental varieties are not available commercially, but provide an indication of the progress being made by forage breeding companies.

**Table 16. Summary of Kentucky tall fescue yield trials 2002-2019 (yield shown as a percentage of the mean of the commercial varieties in the trial)**

| Variety            | Endophyte Status <sup>1</sup> | Proprietor                 | Lexington         |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | Princeton |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | Quicksand |        |  |  | Mean <sup>4</sup> (#trials) |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-----------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-----------|--------|--|--|-----------------------------|
|                    |                               |                            | 03-3              | 05   | 07   | 09   | 11   | 12   | 13   | 14   | 15   | 16   | 17        | 02   | 04   | 06   | 08   | 10   | 12   | 15   | 03   | 05   | 13        | 16     |  |  |                             |
|                    |                               |                            | 2-yr <sup>5</sup> | 3-yr | 3-yr | 3-yr | 3-yr | 3-yr | 3-yr | 3-yr | 3-yr | 3-yr | 3-yr      | 3-yr | 3-yr | 3-yr | 3-yr | 3-yr | 2-yr | 2-yr | 2-yr | 3-yr | 3-yr      | 3-yr   |  |  |                             |
| Atlas Select       | free                          | ProSeeds Marketing         |                   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |        |  |  |                             |
| Aprilia            | free                          | ProSeeds Marketing         |                   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |        |  |  |                             |
| Baquala            | free                          | Allied Seed                |                   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |        |  |  |                             |
| BarElite           | free                          | Barenbrug USA              |                   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |        |  |  |                             |
| Bariane            | free                          | Barenbrug USA              | 87                | 99   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |        |  |  |                             |
| Barolex            | free                          | Barenbrug USA              | 90                |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |        |  |  |                             |
| BarOptima PLUS E34 | novel                         | Barenbrug USA              | 122               | 99   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |        |  |  |                             |
| Bronson            | free                          | Ampac Seed                 | 88                | 97   | 105  | 102  | 99   | 99   |      |      |      |      |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |        |  |  |                             |
| Brutus             | free                          | Saddle Butte Ag. Inc.      |                   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |        |  |  |                             |
| Bull               | free                          | Improved Forages           | 98                | 102  |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |        |  |  |                             |
| Cajun II           | free                          | Smith Seed Services        |                   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |        |  |  |                             |
| Cowgirl            | free                          | Rose-AgriSeeds             |                   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |        |  |  |                             |
| Dominate           | free                          | Allied Seed                |                   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |        |  |  |                             |
| Drover             | free                          | Barenbrug USA              |                   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |        |  |  |                             |
| DuraMax GOLD       | novel                         | DLF Pickseed               |                   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |        |  |  |                             |
| Enhance            | free                          | Allied Seed                |                   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |        |  |  |                             |
| Estancia           | novel                         | Mountain View Seeds        | 102               |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |        |  |  |                             |
| ArkShield          | novel                         | Mountain View Seeds        |                   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |        |  |  |                             |
| Festival           | free                          | Pickseed West              |                   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |        |  |  |                             |
| Flourish           | free                          | Allied Seed                |                   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |        |  |  |                             |
| FSG 402TF          | free                          | Farm Science Genetics      |                   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |        |  |  |                             |
| Goliath            | free                          | Ampac Seed                 |                   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |        |  |  |                             |
| HyMark             | free                          | Fraser Seeds               |                   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |        |  |  |                             |
| Jesup EF           | free                          | Pennington Seed            |                   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |        |  |  |                             |
| Jesup MaxQ         | novel                         | Pennington Seed            | 98                | 101  | 110  | 103  | 100  | 93   | 106  | 102  | 111  | 107  | 94        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |        |  |  |                             |
| KENHY              | free                          | KY Agric Exp Sta.          |                   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |        |  |  |                             |
| Kentucky 32        | free                          | Oregro Seeds               |                   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |        |  |  |                             |
| Kora Protek        | novel                         | DLF Pickseed               |                   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |        |  |  |                             |
| KY31+              | toxic                         | KY Agric Exp Sta.          | 112               | 108  | 102  | 102  | 93   | 95   | 103  | 100  | 99   | 103  | 98        | 104  |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |        |  |  |                             |
| Lacefield MaxQ II  | novel                         | Pennington Seed            |                   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |        |  |  |                             |
| Martin2 Protek     | novel                         | DLF Pickseed               |                   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |        |  |  |                             |
| Namryo             | free                          | Jap. Grassland ForageSeed/ |                   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |        |  |  |                             |
| Noria              | free                          | ProSeeds Marketing         |                   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |        |  |  |                             |
| Payload            | free                          | Brett Young                |                   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |        |  |  |                             |
| RAD-ERF50          | free                          | Radix Research, Inc.       |                   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |        |  |  |                             |
| Savory             | free                          | DLF Pickseed               |                   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |        |  |  |                             |
| Seine              | free                          | Advanta Seeds              |                   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |        |  |  |                             |
| Select             | free                          | Southern States            | 94                | 99   | 99   | 98   | 90   | 100  | 97   | 103  | 97   | 102  | 97        | 105  | 102  | 105  | 99   | 100  | 99   | 102  | 91   | 99   | 86        | 98(21) |  |  |                             |
| SS-0705TFSL        | free                          | Southern States            |                   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |        |  |  |                             |
| Stockman           | free                          | Seed Research of OR        | 108               |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |        |  |  |                             |
| Teton II           | free                          | Mountain View Seeds        |                   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |        |  |  |                             |
| Texoma MaxQ II     | novel                         | Pennington Seed            |                   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |        |  |  |                             |
| TF0203G            | free                          | Seed Research of OR        |                   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |        |  |  |                             |
| Tower              | free                          | DLF Pickseed               |                   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |        |  |  |                             |
| Tower Protek       | novel                         | DLF Pickseed               |                   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |        |  |  |                             |
| Tuscany            | free                          | Forage Genetics            |                   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |        |  |  |                             |
| Tuscany II         | free                          | Seed Research of OR        |                   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |        |  |  |                             |
| SCAN               | free                          | Brett Young                |                   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |           |        |  |  |                             |

1 Free-varieties that do not contain an endophyte. Toxic-KY31+ contains a toxic endophyte. Novel-varieties that contain an endophyte that aids persistence but is not toxic to cattle.  
 2 Year trial was established.  
 3 Use this summary table as a guide in making variety decisions, but refer to specific yearly reports to determine statistical differences in forage yield between varieties. To find actual yields, look in the yearly report for the final year of each specific trial. For example, the Lexington trial planted in 2012 was harvested 2 years, so the final report would be "2015 Tall Fescue Report" archived in the UK Forage website at <forages.ca.uky.edu>.  
 4 Mean only presented when respective variety was included in two or more trials.  
 5 Number of years of data.



**Table 15. Proprietors of bromegrass varieties in current trials**

| Variety  | Type   | Proprietor/KY Distributor |
|--|--------|---------------------------|
| <b>Commercial Varieties-Available for Farm Use</b> |        |                           |
| Admiral  | meadow | Cisco Seeds               |
| Arid   | smooth | Mountain View Seeds       |
| Arsenal  | meadow | Barenbrug USA             |
| Artillery  | meadow | Barenbrug USA             |
| Carlton  | smooth | Pickseed USA              |
| MacBeth  | meadow | Cisco Seeds               |
| Peak   | smooth | Allied Seed               |
| <b>Experimental Varieties<sup>1</sup></b>          |        |                           |
| MB1302   | meadow | Allied Seed               |
| MB1303   | meadow | Allied Seed               |

<sup>1</sup> Experimental varieties are not available commercially, but provide an indication of the progress being made by forage breeding companies.

**Table 17. Summary of Kentucky bromegrass yield trials at Lexington 2006-2019 (yield shown as a percentage of the mean of the commercial varieties in the trial)**

| Variety    | Type     | Proprietor/KY Distributor | 2006 <sup>1,2</sup><br>4-yr <sup>4</sup> | 2008<br>3-yr | 2010<br>3-yr | 2012<br>3-yr | 2014<br>3-yr | 2015<br>3-yr | 2016<br>3-yr | 2017<br>2-yr | Mean <sup>3</sup><br>(#trials) |
|------------|----------|---------------------------|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------------------|
| AC Knowles | hybrid   | Agriculture Canada        | 85                                       |              | 82           | 102          | 89           |              |              |              | 89(4)                          |
| Admiral    | meadow   | Cisco Seeds               |  |              |              |              |              |              | 104          | 108          | 106(2)                         |
| Arid       | meadow   | Mountain View Seeds       |  |              |              |              |              |              | 96           | 93           | 95(2)                          |
| Bigfoot    | hybrid   | Grassland Oregon          | 108                                      | 116          | 105          |              |              |              |              |              | 110(3)                         |
| Canterbury | mountain | Barenbrug USA             |  | 79           |              |              |              |              |              |              | –                              |
| Carlton    | smooth   | Pickseed USA              |  |              |              | 82           | 95           |              |              |              | 91(2)                          |
| Doina      | smooth   | Barenbrug USA             |  | 114          | 108          |              |              |              |              |              | 111(2)                         |
| Fleet      | meadow   | Agriculture Canada        | 110                                      |              |              | 109          |              |              |              |              | 110(2)                         |
| Hakari     | Alaska   | Barenbrug USA             |  | 85           | 85           |              |              |              |              |              | 85(2)                          |
| MacBeth    | meadow   | Cisco Seeds               |  | 136          | 119          | 107          | 116          | 107          | 102          | 111          | 114(7)                         |
| Olga       | smooth   | Barenbrug USA             |  | 116          | 101          |              |              |              |              |              | 109(2)                         |
| Peak       | smooth   | Allied Seed               |  | 97           |              | 100          |              | 93           | 96           | 87           | 95(5)                          |
| Persister  | prairie  | DLF Pickseed              |  | 72           |              |              |              |              |              |              | –                              |
| RAD-BI29   | smooth   | Columbia Seeds            | 96                                       | 86           |              |              |              |              |              |              | 91(2)                          |

<sup>1</sup> Year trial was established.

<sup>2</sup> Use this summary table as a guide in making variety decisions, but refer to specific yearly reports to determine statistical differences in forage yield between varieties. To find actual yields, look in the yearly report for the final year of each specific trial. For example, the Lexington trial planted in 2012 was harvested 3 years, so the final report would be “2015 Tall Fescue and Brome Report” archived in the UK Forage website at <forages.ca.uky.edu>.

<sup>3</sup> Mean only presented when respective variety was included in two or more trials.

<sup>4</sup> Number of years of data



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## Tall Fescue Toxicosis Research Update

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### Background

It has long been recognized that cattle on common tall fescue (i.e., Kentucky 31) can be impacted by a summer performance slump that is related to toxins in the tissue of the plant. The role of the fungal endophyte (currently called *Epichloë coenophiala*) in fescue toxicosis was first established by Dr. Charles Bacon with USDA-ARS with the Toxicology and Mycotoxins Research Unit in Athens, Georgia. We now know that fescue toxicosis is a type of ergot toxicity, similar in some ways to ergotism caused by other types of fungal contaminants of cereal grains.

The endophyte lives in the plant tissue where it produces ergot alkaloids, contributes to insect pest-resistance and generally improves the persistence of the grass. However, exposure to the ergot alkaloids causes the toxicosis in grazing animals. Work by our research group, the USDA-ARS Forage-Animal Production Research Unit in Lexington, Kentucky, has shown that ergovaline is the particular ergot alkaloid that is responsible for vasoconstriction. Vasoconstriction is the decrease in blood vessel diameter that is behind exacerbated heat stress. When the blood vessels in the periphery of the body are constricted the cattle cannot dissipate heat properly. Thus, we see panting on mild days, wading in stock ponds and decreased grazing in favor of lying in the shade. Conversely, vasoconstriction in cold weather can lead to “fescue foot” and gangrenous loss of tail switches. As serious as these latter symptoms can be, new research shows that vasoconstriction in fescue toxicosis has impacts beyond the animal’s extremities.

### Vasoconstriction; it causes more problems than you think

Increased heat stress is just the beginning of problems caused by vasoconstriction from ergot alkaloids. It is well known that horses have reproductive problems related to fescue toxicosis, but ruminants are also susceptible. Former USDA-ARS scientist, Dr. Glen Aiken, in collaboration with Clemson University showed that the testicular arteries of bulls constricted during fescue toxicosis. Lower semen quality and sperm counts were noted when the blood flow to the testis was restricted. These results indicate that fescue toxicosis could result in poorer coverage of cow herds by affected bulls.

New results indicate that female ruminants also have reproductive impacts from exposure to ergot alkaloids in fescue toxicosis. USDA-ARS scientist, Dr. James Klotz collaborated with Clemson University to show that fetal development in pregnant ewes was impacted by ergot alkaloid exposure. When ewes were exposed to ergot alkaloids during gestation the birthweight of lambs was approximately 25% less than the lambs of unexposed ewes. Umbilical arteries were brought into the laboratory and it was shown that they constricted when exposed to ergot alkaloids. These results indicate that poor blood flow from vasoconstriction contributes to low birthweights. Clearly, reproductive effects of toxic tall fescue should be a consideration in our region.

#### **Four basic approaches to contend with fescue toxicosis**

When you identify that your herd has a problem with fescue toxicosis there are four basic approaches to solving the problem: establish a new forage, change the physiology of the forage you have, incorporate less susceptible genetics into your herd or change the physiology of the animals you have. Renovating to replace toxic tall fescue is the best way to eliminate fescue toxicosis. This option includes alternative cool season grasses, such as orchardgrass and Kentucky bluegrass. Warm season perennial grasses and the often high-yielding warm season annuals are options for later grazing. Novel endophyte fescues combine some of the benefits of common tall fescue without the concern of fescue toxicosis. Novel endophyte fescue varieties will be discussed in another part of this symposium.

The physiology of toxic tall fescue can be changed through chemical seedhead suppression. The toxic alkaloids are concentrated in the seeds, and it has long been recognized that mowing to reduce seedheads makes the forage less toxic. Similarly, herbicides that reduce seedhead emergence also decreases the concentration of ergot alkaloids. This approach has the added benefit of maintain the grass in the vegetative state, which is higher quality than the mature forage.

It has been shown that Brahman-influenced cattle are less susceptible to fescue toxicosis. Moreover, many have observed that cattle raised in the fescue belt are less sensitive than cattle purchased and brought in from other regions. Ongoing research indicates that genotypes within any breed might be more ergot alkaloid-tolerant through differences in liver enzymes and blood vessel receptors. Research by Dr. Brittany Harlow at the USDA-ARS Forage-Animal Production Research Unit indicates that rumen bacteria of some cattle break down the ergot alkaloid, ergovaline, more rapidly than others. The cattle with faster degrading rumen bacteria seem to become less vasoconstricted when suffering from fescue toxicosis.

Our research group has also identified a way to alter the physiology of animals in fescue toxicosis. The incorporation of clovers into tall fescue pastures has long been an approach to mitigate fescue toxicosis. It was thought that clovers diluted the amount of ergot alkaloids in the diet by providing an alternative forage. In fact, clovers and other legumes produce a group of compounds called isoflavones. A number of different experiments have shown that isoflavones act as vasorelaxants, that is, they have the opposite effect of the ergot alkaloids, which cause vasoconstriction. The research indicates that modest intake of red clover can reverse vasoconstriction in fescue toxicosis. Collaborators at the University of Tennessee have also shown feed intake recovers when cattle in fescue toxicosis receive red clover isoflavones.

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# Practical Considerations for Utilizing Tall Fescue in Grazing Systems

Chris Teutsch, UK Research and Education Center at Princeton  
[Chris.Teutsch@uky.edu](mailto:Chris.Teutsch@uky.edu) or 270-963-0066

Tall fescue (*Schedonorus arundinaceus* (Schreb.) Dumort., nom. cons.) is the most important cool-season grass in the transition area between the temperate northern and subtropical southern United States. In most unimproved pastures, tall fescue is infected with a fungal endophyte that imparts tolerance to abiotic and biotic stresses. While this mutualistic relationship improves persistence in low input grazing systems, it also results in the production of alkaloids that cause tall fescue toxicosis. While there are a number of grotesque symptoms associated with this syndrome such as fescue foot, fat necrosis, and loss of ear tips and tall switches, symptoms that are not readily observed are the costliest. These include vasoconstriction resulting in high body temperature, lower forage intake, lower milk production, lower growth rates and weaning weights, compromised immune system, and lower conception/calving rates (Roberts and Andrae, 2004). This article will provide some practical approaches to mitigating the negative impact of tall fescue in grazing systems.

## Assess endophyte levels

The first step in managing tall fescue toxicosis is to assess the levels of endophyte in pastures. Since the endophyte cannot be seen with the naked eye, tiller samples must be collected and sent into a lab for screening. In Kentucky, the Division of Regulatory Services at the University of Kentucky provides this service. More information on collecting samples can be obtained by contacting your [local extension office](#) or consulting the following publication, [Sampling for the Tall Fescue Endophyte in Pastures and Hay Stands, PPA-30](#).

## Develop a management strategy

Once level of endophyte infection is known, an appropriate management strategy can be developed (Figure 1). If the infection level is above 20 to 25%, then replacement of the stand is recommended. However, there are a number of factors that should be considered prior to replacement. For example, if the pasture is rented on a year to year lease, then investment in a novel endophyte tall fescue may not be wise. Other important considerations can be found in Figure 1.

## Replacement of toxic stands

In cases where it is feasible to replace toxic stands with novel endophyte tall fescue, there are two approaches. The first is Spray-Wait-Spray. In this method tall fescue pastures are grazed or harvested for hay in the spring to keep viable seed from being produced. Pastures are then allowed to regrow (vegetative) and sprayed with a non-selective herbicide in mid-summer. Pastures are sprayed a second time with a non-selective herbicide just prior to planting in late summer. The second approach is Spray-Smother-Spray.

In this method, pastures can be grazed in early spring and allowed to regrow. They are then sprayed with a non-selective herbicide in late spring and a summer annual smother crop is planted (sorghum-sudangrass or pearl millet). The smother crop can be grazed or hayed during the summer months. In late summer, pastures are sprayed a second time with a non-selective herbicide and the novel endophyte tall fescue is planted.

### **Managing existing tall fescue stands**

In some cases, even with high infection rates, it may not make sense to replace tall fescue stands. These stands may be on land with short-term leases or high erosion potential (Figure 1). In these cases, managing existing stands may be the most practical approach. There are a number of management practices that can be implemented to mitigate the negative impacts of the toxic endophyte and together they can improve animal performance to a level almost equal to endophyte free or novel endophyte tall fescue (Figure 2).

### **Dilution with other forages**

The negative impact of the endophyte can be mitigated by adding non-toxic forages to pastures (Figure 3). Red and white clover can be frost seeded into tall fescue pastures in late winter. For more information on frost seeding please see the following Master Grazer video <https://forages.ca.uky.edu/file/frost-seeding-clover>. Pastures can also be interseeded with other cool- and warm-season grasses. Crabgrass can be incorporated into thinning tall fescue pastures to provide non-toxic forage during the summer months. For more information on crabgrass please see [Crabgrass, AGR-232](#).

### **Clipping seedheads**

Seedheads can contain five times more ergovaline (toxin in tall fescue) than leaf blades (Figure 4). Clipping seedheads in tall fescue pastures not only maintains forage quality, but also decrease ergovaline levels. Seedheads can also be controlled by plant growth regulators. Applied at the proper time, some herbicides can almost eliminate seedhead formation.

### **Strategic avoidance**

Avoiding tall fescue pastures during critical times of the year such as the summer months or late fall can reduce the negative impacts of the endophyte. For example, a summer annual or perennial could be incorporated into the grazing system, allowing cattle to avoid tall fescue during the summer months. Another example would be feeding hay during late fall to allow ergovaline levels in stockpiled tall fescue to decrease to a safe level (Figure 5).

### **Use local animal genetics**

Herds that have been developed in the fescue belt have been indirectly selected for tolerance to tall fescue toxicosis. It is important to recognize that although some animals may have increased tolerance to tall fescue toxicosis it is not and will most likely never be complete tolerance. Genetic testing for tolerance to tall fescue toxicosis is in its infancy and one commercially available test is currently being marketed.

### **Supplement tall fescue pastures**

Supplementation with energy and protein has been shown to partially alleviate tall fescue toxicosis (Figure 6), although the impact can be marginal, especially at lower supplementation levels. The impact of supplementation is likely two-fold. The first is decreased dietary toxins due to dilution and the second is increased levels of protein and energy in the diet. As with other management strategies, there is a cost for both the supplement and feeding it.

### **Summary and Conclusions**

Tall fescue toxicosis is one of the costliest livestock disorders in the southeastern United States. Its impacts often go undetected on many livestock operations. Developing a management strategy starts with testing pastures for the endophyte. Once this is accomplished, appropriate management strategies can be implemented. While management strategies can mitigate impacts, the only way to completely eliminate the harmful effects of endophyte on livestock is to replace infected stands with other forages or novel endophyte tall fescue.

### **References**

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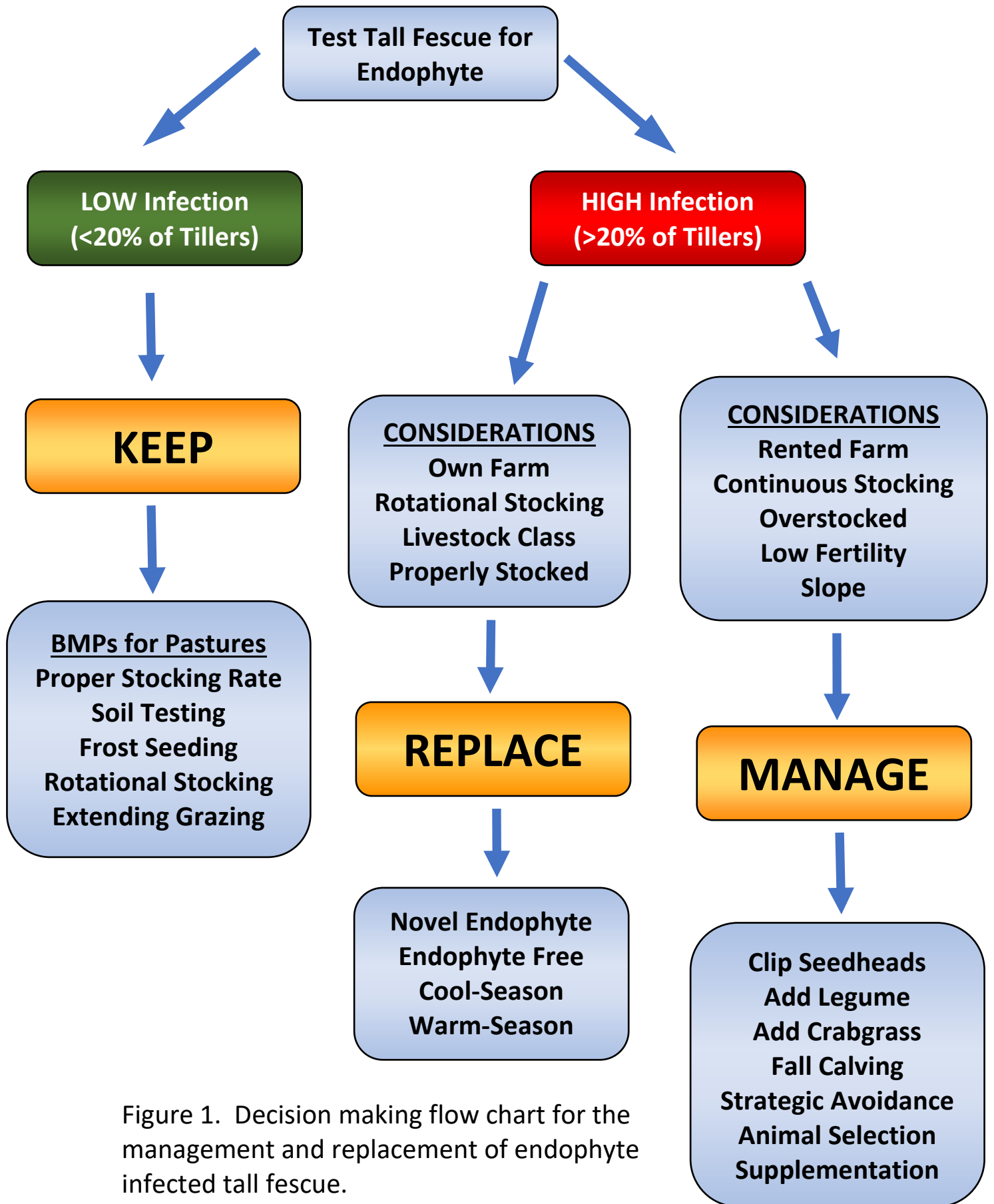


Figure 1. Decision making flow chart for the management and replacement of endophyte infected tall fescue.

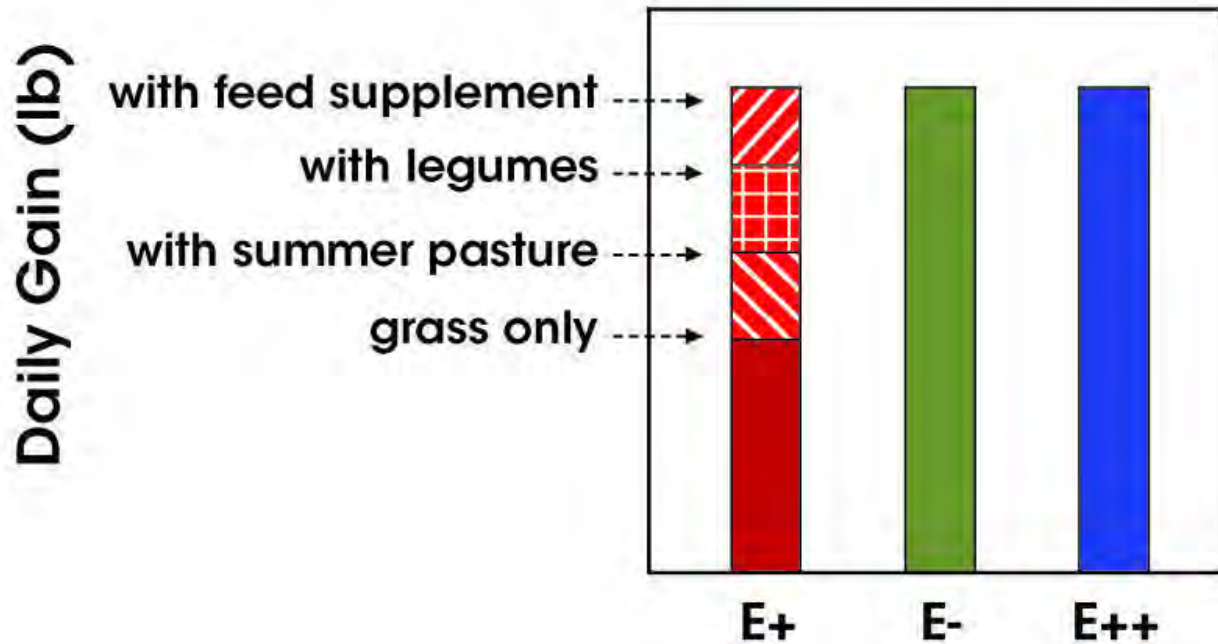


Figure 2. Incremental gains with multiple management inputs. Although production levels similar to novel endophyte tall fescue can be achieved, the cost of production can be high (Roberts and Andrae, 2004).

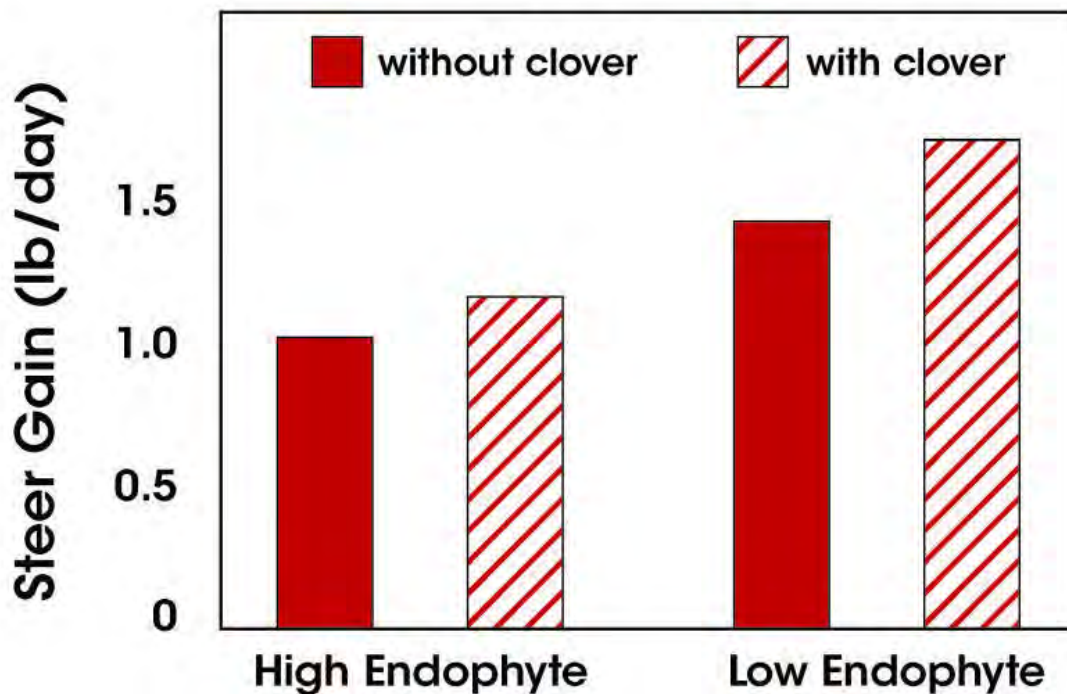


Figure 3. Impact of adding clover to high and low endophyte pastures. Adding clover increased production regardless of endophyte status (Thompson et al., 1993).

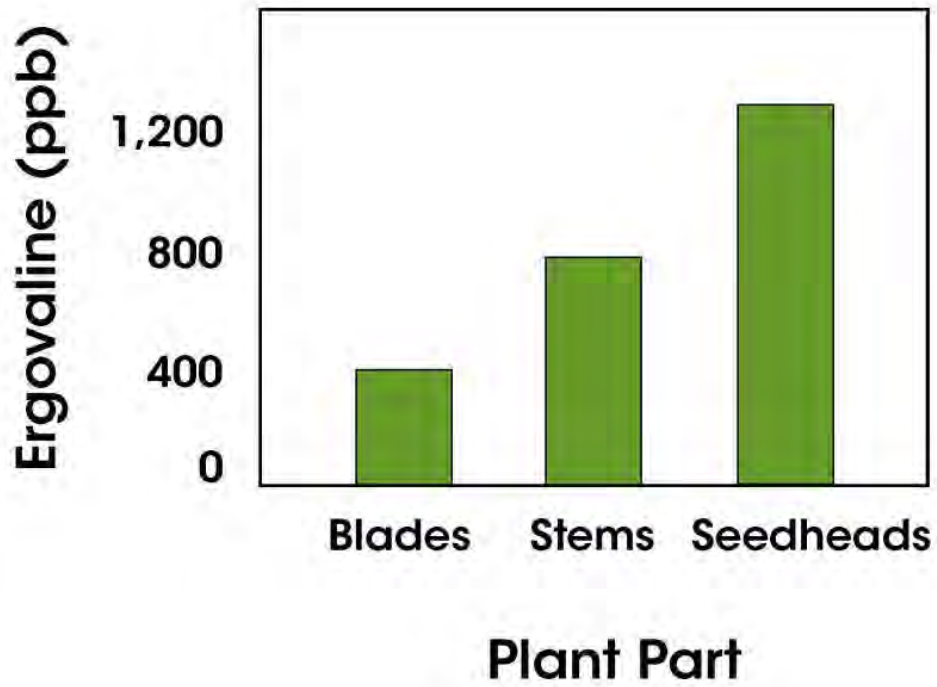


Figure 4. Ergovaline levels in leaf blades, stems, and seedheads of tall fescue (Rottinhaus et al., 1991).

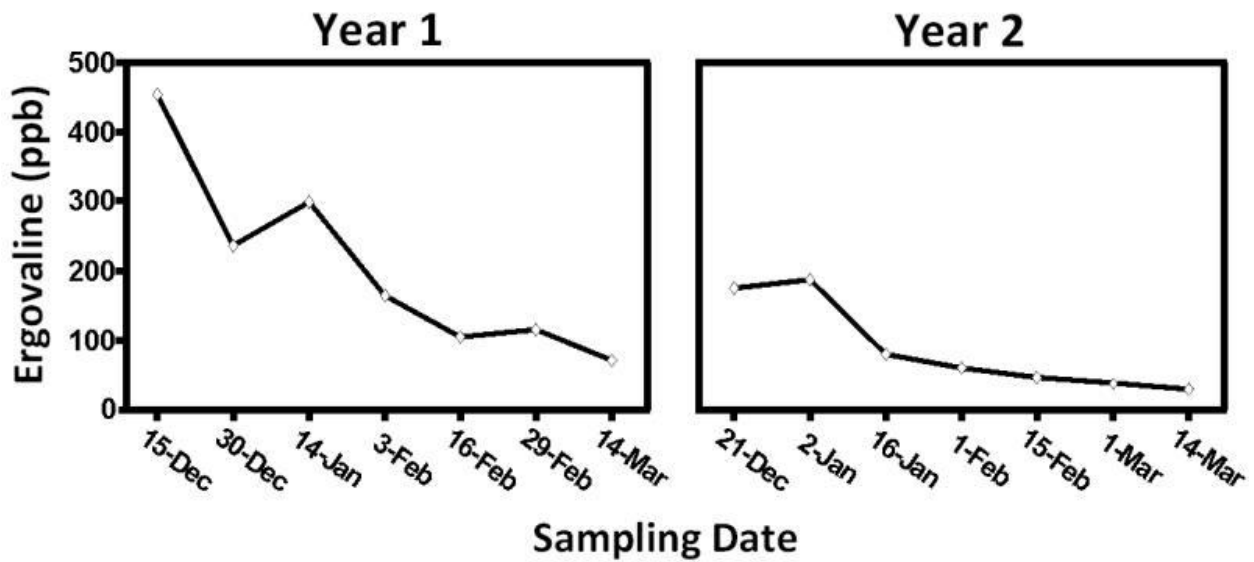


Figure 5. Ergovaline in stockpiled tall fescue as impacted harvest date (Kallenbach et al., 2003).

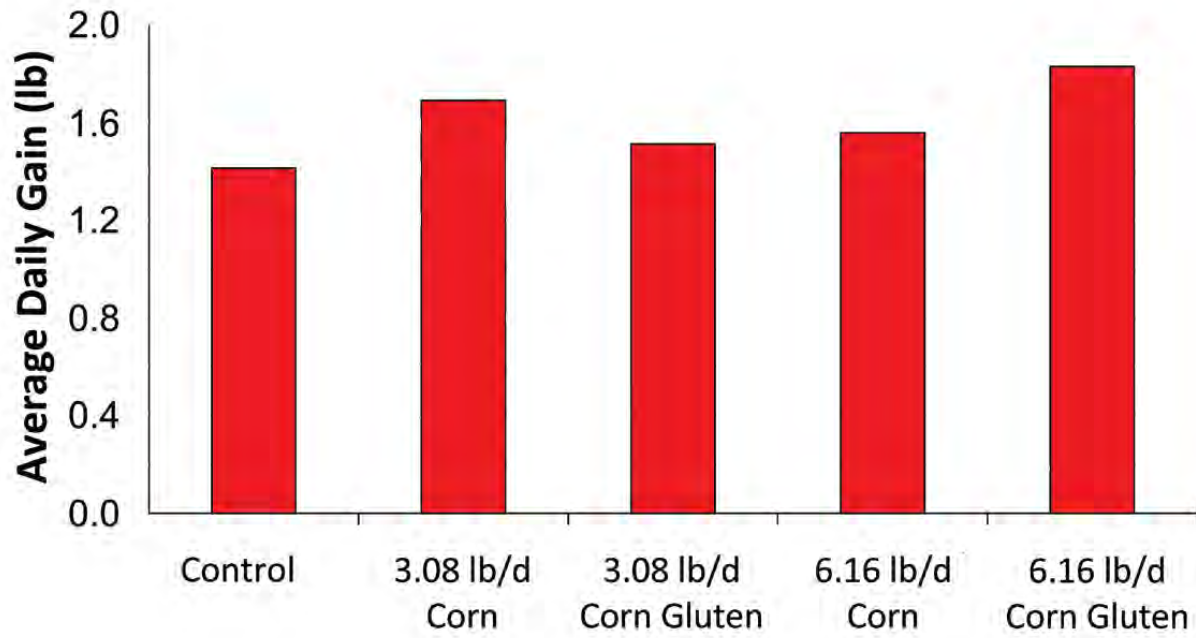


Figure 6. Impact of supplementation on average daily gain (Elizadle et al., 1998).

# Sampling for the Tall Fescue Endophyte in Pasture or Hay Stands

*P. Vincelli, Plant Pathology; S.R. Smith, Plant and Soil Sciences; and Tina Tillery, Regulatory Services*

Most of the tall fescue growing in Kentucky is colonized by the tall fescue endophyte, a fungus which causes disorders in livestock that feed on the infected grass. The animal disease syndrome is called fescue toxicosis, which some researchers estimate may cost Kentucky producers over \$200 million yearly. This problem can be greatly reduced by identifying the infected fields and replacing them with endophyte-free or novel endophyte tall fescue varieties or by managing them in a way to minimize the impact of the endophyte on herd productivity. One of the simplest ways to reduce toxicity symptoms in cattle is add red and white clover to existing tall fescue stands.

## Endophyte Testing in Kentucky

The best ways to determine the level of infection within a stand is to examine individual tall fescue tillers sampled from the field microscopically for evidence of the fungus or to use a recently developed immunoblot laboratory procedure. In Kentucky, the Division of Regulatory Services, located at the University of Kentucky, offers a service to test tall fescue infection level. To obtain useful information samples must be collected in accordance with the guidelines given here.



**Figure 1.** Tillers must be cut at the soil surface.

## Selecting Stands to be Sampled

Only fields of the same seeding date and management unit should be included under the same field designation. The fungus is spread through seed, and since fescue seed can be moved in many different ways, the variation in endophyte level between fields can be great. However, before spending money on sampling, farmers should consider that most fields will be highly infested. Several extensive surveys conducted by UK researchers found that in more than 50 percent of the stands in Kentucky 80 percent of the plants are infected. Only about 7 percent of the stands in Kentucky have fewer than 25 percent of the plants infected. **Note:** New tall fescue varieties such as MaxQ contain a novel or non-toxic endophyte that cannot be distinguished from other infected stands using currently available commercial laboratory procedures. Therefore, fields planted to novel endophyte fescue should not be sampled.

## When to Sample

Specimens must be collected during periods when the fungus is most likely to be present in the tillers. Specimens should be collected when plants have been growing well for at least a month, for best assurance of finding the endophyte. The optimum collection times in Kentucky appear to be late April to early June and October through November, based on University of Kentucky tests. Specimens collected at other times can give erratic results. Check with the local county extension office before sampling the site.

## Collecting the Specimens

A sample consists of tillers (stems) of plants that have been cut with a razor blade or sharp knife at the soil surface. (**Note:** It is very important to cut the tiller at the soil surface! See Figure 1.) Avoid taking stems that have seed heads on them, but do not take small or immature tillers either; tillers with stems 1/8-inch thick or thicker work best. Take about 10 to 20 more tillers than necessary to ensure a good working sample for the laboratory. Measure up about 4 inches from the base of the stem and cut the remaining plant tissue distant from the stem base. Save the stem bases but discard the tissue containing the leaves. Place the stem pieces into a plastic zip lock bag. Put a damp (not wet) paper towel in the bag to prevent drying of the tissues.

## Representative Samples

Make sure you take your tiller samples while walking back and forth across your field so you get roughly the same number of tillers from all sections of the field. (See Figure 2.) It is critical that the specimens collected be representative of the field at large. The specimens should be taken at random, by walking a zigzag pattern about the field. Avoid collecting from ditches, pond areas, feeding sites and borders, unless these areas make up more than 20 percent of the stand. These areas have often been destroyed and reseeded through natural processes and can produce misleading data.

## Field Size Affects Specimen Number

The number of specimens to collect is determined by field size (see Table 1).

**Table 1.** Sampling recommendations

| Number of acres | Number of specimens                                |
|-----------------|--|
| Less than 5     | 20   |
| 5 to 10         | 40   |
| More than 10    | At least 50, with higher numbers for larger fields |

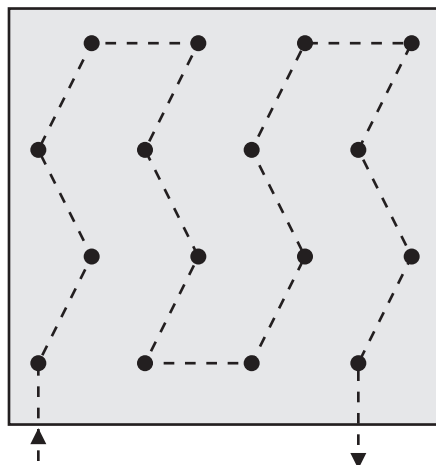
**Note:** These sampling recommendations are estimates; more or fewer plugs may be necessary to accurately represent the areas of concern. Large fields of variable terrain should be divided into smaller sampling blocks.

## Protecting the Samples

After collecting, place the specimens with a cold pack in a sturdy, plastic-lined box and take them to the county extension office or send overnight express directly to the testing laboratory. Refrigerated storage

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**Figure 2.** Collect specimens randomly from the site using a zig-zag pattern.



after sampling is best to ensure sample quality, but when not available, do not let the container sit in the sun or get too hot. Deliver or send the specimens early in the week so they will arrive in the lab without delay. Weekend mail may sit along the route in hot trucks!

## Results

The laboratory's findings will be reported to the person who submitted the sample with a copy to the county extension agent when requested. The report will indicate the percentage of tillers submitted that were infected with the endophyte. No recommendation as to how this level of infection will affect animals will be included. This is because the acceptable level of infection is highly dependent upon the particular farming system involved. After receiving the results you are encouraged to meet with your county agent to discuss management options. The publications listed at the end of this publication provide more information.

## Cost

A fee is necessary to partially cover the cost of lab testing. Contact the Regulatory Services Seed Lab (859-218-2468) for current pricing. Each field should be submitted as a separate sample. A billing statement of charges will be mailed after the laboratory analysis is completed. Checks should be made payable to: University of Kentucky.

## Mailing Samples

If tillers were collected from more than one stand, mark each group of specimens with a unique name for identification. Place all specimens from each sample inside a single plastic bag, loosely seal and put into a box or padded envelope with a cold pack. Multiple samples can be included in the same box as long as individual samples are clearly marked. A sample submittal form or a letter from the county extension agent for agriculture clearly identifying the sample and number of specimens should accompany each sample submitted to the lab. Enclose the letter or form inside the package or box but outside the plastic bag that contains the samples. Samples should be shipped overnight to: Seed Laboratory, Division of Regulatory Services, 103 Regulatory Services Bldg., University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40546-0275.

## Additional Information

Publications available at your county extension office or at [www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage](http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage).

- *Tall Fescue* (AGR-59)
- *Alternatives for Fungus Infected Tall Fescue* (AGR-119)
- *Renovating Hay and Pasture Fields* (AGR-26)
- *Tall Fescue Endophyte Concepts* at <http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage/Tall%20Fescue%20Endophyte%20Concepts%20for%20Web.pdf>.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

|                    |  |                          |
|--------------------|--|--------------------------|
| <b>February 20</b> | <b>KY Alfalfa and Stored Forage Conference</b> | <b>Elizabethtown, KY</b> |
| <b>March 19</b>    | <b>Novel Tall Fescue Renovation Workshop</b>   | <b>Lexington, KY</b>     |
| <b>April 14</b>    | <b>Kentucky Spring Fencing School</b>          | <b>Glasgow, KY</b>       |
| <b>April 16</b>    | <b>Kentucky Spring Fencing School</b>          | <b>Grand Rivers, KY</b>  |
| <b>April 21-22</b> | <b>Kentucky Spring Grazing School</b>          | <b>Princeton, KY</b>     |
| <b>May 19</b>      | <b>Kentucky Spring Fencing School</b>          | <b>Frankfurt, KY</b>     |
| <b>May 21</b>      | <b>Kentucky Spring Fencing School</b>          | <b>Campton, KY</b>       |







# 39th Annual Kentucky Alfalfa and Stored Forage Conference

*Please join the University of Kentucky and the Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council for the 39th Annual Kentucky Alfalfa and Stored Forage Conference. This day long conference focuses on maximizing alfalfa and stored forage production and utilization.*

**When:** Thursday, February 20th, 2020  
7:30 am - 3:45 pm (EST)

**Where:** Hardin County Extension Office  
111 Opportunity Way  
Elizabethtown, KY 42701

**Registration:** [www.KYAlfalfa2020.eventbrite.com](http://www.KYAlfalfa2020.eventbrite.com)  
Before February 13th: \$30  
After February 13th: \$40  
**Add KFGC membership for \$15 more!**

**For those without internet access, please send check made out to "KFGC".**

KY Alfalfa Conference  
N-222C Ag. Science North  
University of Kentucky  
Lexington, KY 40546-0091

**Sponsorship** Exhibit booths: \$250 - includes one registration  
[www.KYAlfalfa2020.eventbrite.com](http://www.KYAlfalfa2020.eventbrite.com)



## Highlights

- Educational Presentations
- Company Exhibits
- Silent Auction
- Awards

# Kentucky Alfalfa and Stored Forage Conference

## Schedule of Events (All Times Eastern)

- 7:30 **Registration and Exhibits**
- 8:30 **Welcome and overview for the day**  
*Dr. Ray Smith, University of Kentucky*
- 9:00 **Getting the full benefit of your fertilizer dollar**  
*Dr. John Grove, University of Kentucky*
- 9:45 **Don't let insects eat your alfalfa profit**  
*Dr. Ric Bessin, University of Kentucky*
- 10:15 **Break, Exhibits and Silent Auction**
- 10:45 **Fertilizing profitable high yield alfalfa**  
*Dr. Josh McGrath, University of Kentucky*
- 11:15 **Getting the upper hand on diseases of alfalfa and grasses**  
*Dr. Kiersten Wise, University of Kentucky*
- 11:45 **Lunch, Alfalfa awards, Silent auction results**
- 1:15 **Updates on an online alfalfa management tool under development**  
*Travis Howle, Ballard County alfalfa producer*
- 1:30 **What's new in alfalfa weed control**  
*Dr. J. D. Green, University of Kentucky*
- 2:00 **Advances in hay mechanization**  
*David O'Toole, McHale*
- 2:45 **Making a profit with a cash hay alfalfa operation—Integrating all the pieces**  
*Clayton Geraldts, Hart County hay producer and KFGC President*
- 3:30 **Final Comments and Survey Collection**
- 3:45 **Adjourn**

# 2020 Novel Tall Fescue Renovation Workshop

**8:30—4:30 Thursday, March 19, 2020**

**UK Veterinary Diagnostic Lab 1408 Bull Lea Rd.  
Lexington, KY 40511**



**Toxic tall fescue** reduces livestock weight gains and lowers reproductive performance. This one day workshop will give you the tools and information needed to remove toxic tall fescue and replace it with novel tall fescue varieties. Speakers include local producers, company representatives and extension specialists and researchers from across the country.

**Topics include:**

- Fescue toxicosis
- Economics
- Testing
- Establishment
- Management
- Products
- Incentives



**For more info, visit [forages.ca.uky.edu](http://forages.ca.uky.edu) or [www.grasslandrenewal.org](http://www.grasslandrenewal.org)**

**All 2020 Workshops:**

|                  |          |
|------------------|----------|
| Middleburg, VA   | March 10 |
| Mt. Ulla, NC     | March 12 |
| Watkinsville, GA | March 16 |
| Spring Hill, TN  | March 18 |
| Lexington, KY    | March 19 |
| Harrison, AR     | March 24 |
| Mt. Vernon, MO   | March 25 |

Alliance Partners and Contributors includes university extension and research, seed companies and agribusiness, non-profit organizations and government institutions and forage and livestock producers.

Register online at  
[http://  
TallFescueKY2020.  
eventbrite.com](http://TallFescueKY2020.eventbrite.com)

**Registration:**  
\$65 before March 11  
\$80 After March 11  
Includes lunch, refreshments  
and proceedings

Complete the form on the back  
and mail to:  
Krista Lea, University of Kentucky  
N-222C Ag. Science Center North  
Lexington, KY 40546

**Questions:** Contact us at [UKForageExtension@uky.edu](mailto:UKForageExtension@uky.edu) or (859) 257-0597



University of  
**Kentucky**

College of Agriculture,  
Food and Environment

# Novel Tall Fescue Renovation Workshop

Organized by the Alliance for Grassland Renewal

## Agenda (All times are CDT)

- 8:30 am Registration
- 9:00 Welcome, Dr. Ray Smith
- 9:10 Tall Fescue Toxicosis: Symptoms and Causes  
*Dr. Craig Roberts - University of Missouri*
- 9:35 Profitable Animal Production  
*Dr. Jeff Lehmkuhler - University of Kentucky*
- 10:00 Break and Demo: Endophytes Under Microscope  
*Dr. Carolyn Young - Noble Research Institute*
- 10:20 Establishment & First Year Management  
*Dr. John Andrae - Clemson University*
- 11:00 Management: Novels and Toxic Paddocks  
*Dr. Ray Smith - University of Kentucky*
- 11:40 Producer Economics  
*Darrel Franson - Producer*
- 12:00 Seed Quality and Endophyte Testing  
*Nick Hill - Agrinostics & Chris Agee - Pennington Seed*
- 12:15 Lunch and Microscope Demo
- 1:00 Calibrating a Seed Drill  
*Dr. Chris Teutsch - University of Kentucky*
- 1:45 Tour Plots at UK Research and Education Center  
*Gene Olson & Dr. Ray Smith - University of Kentucky*
- 3:00 Break and Microscope Demo
- 3:15 Company Product Highlights:  
*Peter Ballerstedt - Barenbrug USA*  
*Jerome Magnuson - DLF*  
*Mark Thomas - Mountain View Seed*  
*Chris Agee - Pennington Seed*
- 4:00 Cost-Share Incentive Programs  
*Adam Jones - USDA NRCS*
- 4:15 Producer Panel: On-Farm Success with Novel Tall Fescue  
*Jesse Ramer and Kevin Laurent*
- 5:00 ADJOURN

Photo:  
Noble Research Institute



ALLIANCE for  
GRASSLAND  
RENEWAL

see blue.

CCA credits have been requested

**Organized and Sponsored by the Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council,  
UK Cooperative Extension Service, and the Master Grazer Program**

*helping producers learn the newest fencing methods and sound fencing construction with classroom and hands-on learning*

**WHEN:** April 14 Glasgow, KY  
 April 16 Grand Rivers, KY  
 May 19 Frankfort, KY small ruminants  
 May 21 Campton, KY

**WHERE:**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Barren County Office<br>1463 West Main Street<br>Glasgow, KY 42141               | Grand Rivers Community Ctr<br>155 W. Cumberland Ave.<br>Grand Rivers KY 42045 |
| Wolfe County Ext. Office<br>20 North Washington Street<br>Campton, KY 41301-0146 | Kentucky State University<br>1525 Mills Lane<br>Frankfort, Ky. 40601          |



**2020 Kentucky Fencing Schools**

**COST:** \$30/p ipant -- includes notebook, refreshments, and lunch

**Program Registration – DEADLINE is 2 weeks prior to workshop Online  
 Registration with CREDIT CARD at [www.2020KYFencingSchool.eventbrite.com](http://www.2020KYFencingSchool.eventbrite.com)**

Location you are registering for:

Glasgow, KY     Grand Rivers, KY     Frankfort, KY  
 Russellville, KY

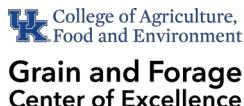
Registration by U.S. Mail: **Carrie Tarr-Janes**  
 UK Research and Education Center  
 1205 Hopkinsville St.  
 Princeton, KY 42445



Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of participants \_\_\_\_\_ x \$30 per participant = \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount to Enclose

**Make CHECKS payable to: KFGC**



# 2020 Kentucky Fencing School Agenda

**7:30 Registration and Refreshments**

**8:15 Welcome and Overview of the Day**

**8:30 Fencing Types and Costs - Morgan Hayes, UK**

**9:00 Fence Construction Basics - Clay Brewer, Stay-Tuff**

- Perimeter fences vs. cross fences
- Fencing options on rented farms
- Proper brace construction
- Line posts and fence construction

**9:45 Break** – visit with sponsors and presenters

**10:15 Overview of Kentucky Fence Law - Clint Quarles, KDA**

**11:00 Electric Fencing Basics - Jeremy McGill, Gallagher**

- Proper energizer selection and grounding
- Proper high tensile fence construction and wire insulation
- Electric offset wires for non-electric fences
- Underground wires and jumper wires

**11:45 Innovations in Fencing Technologies - Josh Jackson, UK**

- wireless fences, fence monitoring

**12:15 Catered Lunch** - visit with sponsors

**1:00 Hands-on Fence Building - Clay Brewer, Stay-Tuff; Jeremy McGill, Gallagher; and Jody Watson, ACI**

- Safety, fence layout, and post driving demo, Jody Watson, ACI
- H-brace construction, Jeremy McGill, Gallagher and Clay Brewer, Stay-Tuff
- Knot tying, splices, and insulator installation, Jeremy McGill and Clay Brewer, Stay-Tuff
- Installation of Stay-Tuff Knot Fence, Clay Brewer, Stay-Tuff
- Installation of High Tensile Fencing, Jeremy McGill, Gallagher

**4:30 Questions, Survey and Wrap-up**



# Spring 2020 Kentucky Grazing School

helping producers learn the newest grazing methods with classroom and hands-on learning

**WHEN:** April 21-22, 2020

**WHERE:** UK Research and Education Center  
348 University Drive  
Princeton, KY 42445

**LIMITED TO 45  
PARTICIPANTS!!**

**COST:** \$50/p ipant -- includes all materials, grazing manual, breaks, and lunch both days

**Program Registration – DEADLINE is April 7, 2020**

Online Registration with CREDIT CARD at  
[www.2020SpringKYGrazing.eventbrite.com](http://www.2020SpringKYGrazing.eventbrite.com)

**Registration by U.S. Mail:**

Carrie Tarr-Janes  
UK Research and Education Center  
348 University Drive, Princeton, KY 42445  
Email: [Carrie.tarr-janes@uky.edu](mailto:Carrie.tarr-janes@uky.edu)  
Phone: 270-963-8351

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

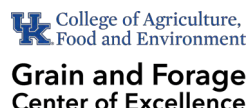
Number of p ipants \_\_\_\_\_ x \$50 per p ipant = \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount

**Make CHECKS payable to: KFGC**

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# Spring 2020 Kentucky Grazing School

helping producers learn the newest grazing methods with classroom and hands-on learning

Emphasis on ruminants – beef, dairy, sheep, & goats

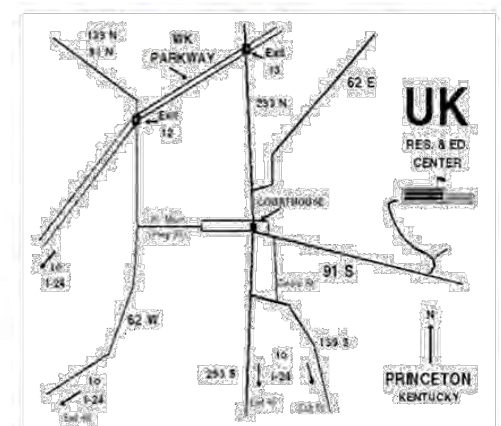
## Tuesday April 21, 2020

- 7:30 on & Refreshments
- 8:00 Introduction of staff and participants
- 8:15 Benefits of Rotational Grazing – Dr. Ray Smith
- 8:35 Meeting Nutritional Needs on Pasture-Dr. Donna Amaral-Phillips
- 9:05 Grazing Math Concepts/ Introduce Field Exercise- Dr. Lehmkuhler
- 9:45 Break & Travel to Field Demonstration Area
- 10:10 Introduction to Temporary Fence- Jeremy McGill
- 10:30 Portable/Seasonal Water Systems- Dr. Je Lehmkuhler
- 10:50 Methods to Assess Pasture Production and Determine Stocking Rate- Dr. Ray Smith
- 11:30 Hands-on Building a Rotational Grazing System in the Field: Setting up Small Paddocks- Ray Smith, Je Lehmkuhler, & Chris Teutsch
- 12:20 Lunch
- 1:00 Fence building: Understanding How to Build and Use Temporary Fencing and High Tensile Fencing – Jeremy McGill
- 2:30 Break and Travel to Teaching Facility
- 3:00 Growth of Grasses and Legumes with Response to Grazing- Dr. Ray Smith
- 3:45 Making Tall Fescue Work on Your Farm- Dr. Jimmy Henning
- 4:15 Economics of Grazing- Dr. Je Lehmkuhler
- 5:00 Discussion
- 5:30 Adjourn for the day

Supper on your own

## Wednesday April 22, 2020

- 7:30 Refreshments
- 8:00 Forage Species for a Comprehensive Grazing System- Dr. Chris Teutsch
- 8:45 General Management Considerations for Grazing Livestock- Dr. Donna Amaral-Phillips
- 9:15 Using KY GRAZE to plan your Grazing Program - Adam Jones
- 10:00 Break
- 10:30 Fundamentals of Laying out a Grazing System - Kevin Laurent
- 11:00 Case Study: Design an on Farm Grazing System (Group Project)
- 11:45 Case Study Presentations
- 12:30 Lunch
- 1:15 How I made grazing work on the farm- Producer Speaker
- 1:45 Rejuvenating Run down Pastures - Dr. Chris Teutsch
- 2:30 Evaluation- All Participants
- 2:45 Break & Travel to Field Demo Area
- 3:10 Field Exercise. Observe grazed paddocks and hear reports of each group. Tour demonstration plots showing warm and cool season annuals to extend the grazing season, renovation options and the effects of rotational grazing.
- 5:00 Adjourn



\*All times are Central Time



# MANAGING SUGARCANE APHID IN FORAGE SORGHUM: CULTIVAR AND APHICIDE IMPACTS

## INTRODUCTION

- Corn silage yield is sensitive to temperature and water stress
- Forage sorghum has a higher level of drought tolerance
- Sugarcane aphid (*Melanaphis sacchari*) could restrict its use

## OBJECTIVES

To document the tolerance of forage sorghum cultivars to the sugarcane aphid and the efficacy of an aphicide for aphid control on these cultivars.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

- Conducted at UKREC, Princeton
- RCB with split block treatment arrangement and four replications
  - Whole plot: APHICIDE
  - Split plot: VARIETIES
- Planted in 30 in rows in late-May
- 150 lb N/A at planting
- Sivanto at 6 oz/A on 19-Aug-19
- Plots rated for aphid damage on a scale of 1 to 9 (Sharma et al., 2013)
- Plots harvested on 26-Sep-19
- Subsampled for dry matter and nutritive value



Figure 1. Plots were harvested using a modified John Deere silage chopper equipped with load cells for weighing individual plots.

Contact: C.D. Teutsch, [chris.teutsch@uky.edu](mailto:chris.teutsch@uky.edu)

C.D. Teutsch, R.T. Villanueva, Z.J. Vilorio, G.L. Olson, and S.R. Smith, University of Kentucky

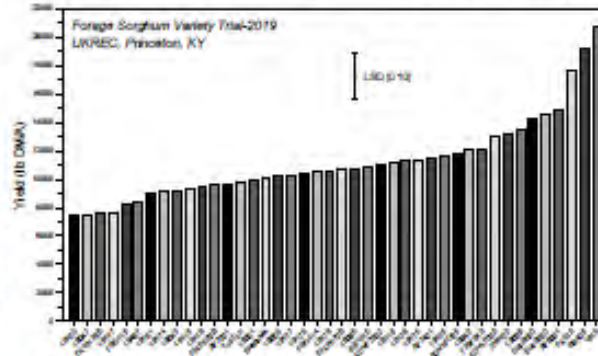


Figure 2. Dry matter yield averaged over aphicide applications for 42 forage sorghum varieties grown in Princeton, KY in 2019. Plots were harvested on 26-Sep-19 using a self-propelled John Deere silage chopper that was equipped with load cells for weighing individual plots.

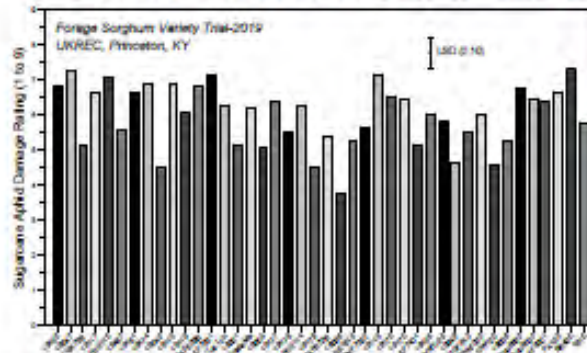


Figure 3. Sugarcane aphid damage rating averaged over aphicide applications for 42 forage sorghum varieties grown in Princeton, KY in 2019. The upper one-third of the canopy was rated on a scale of 1 to 9, with 1 being no damage and 9 being severe damage.

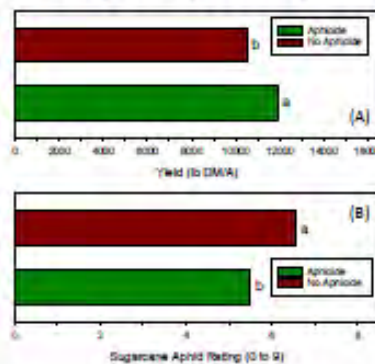


Figure 4. Yield (A) and sugarcane aphid damage rating (B) averaged over varieties as impacted by aphicide application at Princeton, KY in 2019. The upper one-third of the canopy was rated on a scale of 1 to 9, with 1 being no damage and 9 being severe damage.

## SUMMARY

- Aphid damage differed between cultivars ( $P < 0.01$ )
- Aphid damage was reduced in treated plots ( $P < 0.02$ )
- No aphicide x cultivar interaction occurred ( $P > 0.32$ )
- Although levels of beneficial insects were high, they were unable to control aphids
- In the short-term, aphicides will likely be needed
- In the long-term, selection of cultivars that have tolerance may provide a simple and cost-effective approach



Figure 5. Sugarcane aphid damage. The untreated plots are on the left and the untreated on the right.



Figure 6. Beneficial insects were present at high rates. In this photo lady bug and lacewing larvae are preying in the aphids.

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# Optimal Nitrogen Use on Summer Annual Forage Mixtures

Kelly Mercier, Chris Teutsch, Ray Smith, Edwin Ritchey, Kenny Burdine, and Eric Vanzant  
University of Kentucky

## Introduction

- Increasing biodiversity has often been linked to increased productivity, especially when including legumes
- However, legumes in annual systems may not always supply N to associated plants during the growing season
- Therefore, there is uncertainty when making N recommendations on diverse summer annual forage mixtures

## Objective

To evaluate the response of botanically diverse forage mixtures to increasing rates of N fertilizer

## Materials & Methods

- Three forage mixtures planted
  - MONOCULTURE** = sudangrass (SG)
  - SIMPLE MIXTURE** = SG, pearl millet, & soybean
  - COMPLEX MIXTURE** = Simple + corn, sudangrass, crabgrass, cowpea, sunn hemp, Korean lespedeza, forage rape, daikon radish, & sunflower
- Total N rates of 0 – 200 lb N/A was split-applied at planting & after 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> harvests
- RCBD with 4 reps at 2 locations
  - Lexington, KY (Maury silt loam)
  - Princeton, KY (Zanesville silt loam with a fragipan)
- Harvested 3x each in 2018 & 2019



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Yunker Seed, Sharon Grove, KY



A special thank you to Jesse Rumer for supplying the seed for this study.

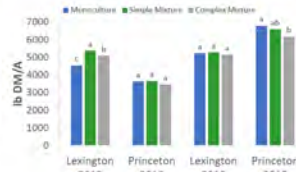


Figure 1. Impact of mixture on annual forage yield for each environment. Treatments within an environment with the same letter are statistically similar ( $\alpha = 0.05$ ).

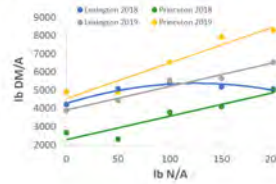


Figure 2. Impact of N rate on annual forage yields for each environment.

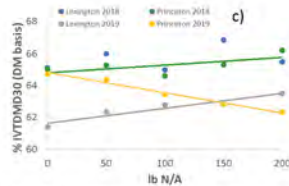
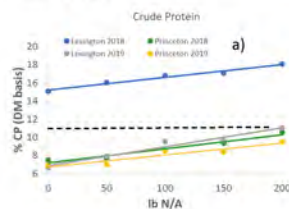


Figure 3. Impact of N rate on forage nutritive characteristics: a) crude protein, b) total digestible nutrients, and c) 30 h *in vitro* true dry matter digestibility. Dashed line denotes requirement for a 650 lb steer to gain 1.7 lb/d.

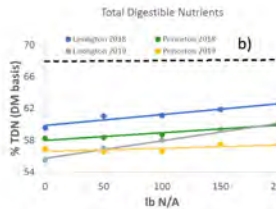


Table 1. Regression equations and R<sup>2</sup> values for Figures 2 and 3.

|                | Regression Equation              | R <sup>2</sup> |
|----------------|----------------------------------|----------------|
| Figure 2       |                                  |                |
| Lexington 2018 | $y = -0.0698x^2 + 17.58x + 4270$ | 0.31           |
| Princeton 2018 | $y = 12.89x + 2281$              | 0.55           |
| Lexington 2019 | $y = 12.94x + 3910$              | 0.59           |
| Princeton 2019 | $y = 19.61x + 4549$              | 0.68           |
| Figure 3a      |                                  |                |
| Lexington 2018 | $y = 0.0141x + 15.20$            | 0.45           |
| Princeton 2018 | $y = 0.0154x + 7.19$             | 0.76           |
| Lexington 2019 | $y = 0.0205x + 6.93$             | 0.64           |
| Princeton 2019 | $y = 0.0131x + 6.75$             | 0.41           |
| Figure 3b      |                                  |                |
| Lexington 2018 | $y = 0.0137x + 59.86$            | 0.29           |
| Princeton 2018 | $y = 0.0096x + 57.98$            | 0.60           |
| Lexington 2019 | $y = 0.0216x + 55.79$            | 0.68           |
| Princeton 2019 | $y = 0.0040x + 56.58$            | 0.13           |
| Figure 3c      |                                  |                |
| Lexington 2018 | na                               | ---            |
| Lexington 2019 | $y = 0.0048x + 64.80$            | 0.08           |
| Lexington 2019 | $y = 0.0090x + 61.69$            | 0.20           |
| Princeton 2019 | $y = -0.0127x + 64.82$           | 0.25           |

## Results

- Year x location interactions were observed; results are presented by environment
- Yields were more variable in Princeton as compared to Lexington
- N application increased yield in a linear trend in 3 out of 4 environments
- Limited yield response to N in Lexington 2018 possibly due to more plant available N in soil
- Mixture had limited effects on nutritive characteristics (data not shown)
- Increasing N had stronger correlations for yield & CP than TDN & IVTDM30
- Forage quality was only slightly improved with increasing N
- Both mixtures were dominated by sudangrass
- Crabgrass filled in lower canopy of complex mixtures and provided 500-600 lb DM/A at both locations
- Several species did not perform well in complex mixtures (Fig. 4)



## Summary & Implications

- Yield benefits when growing diverse forage mixtures were only observed in one out of four environments
- Applying N to summer annual mixtures is recommended, even if legumes are included
- N application shows more promise for increasing yields as compared to improving forage quality of summer annuals
- Additional cost of seed for mixtures most likely will not pay off, but other environmental benefits may be observed
- If choosing to plant a mixture, only include species with compatible growth habits

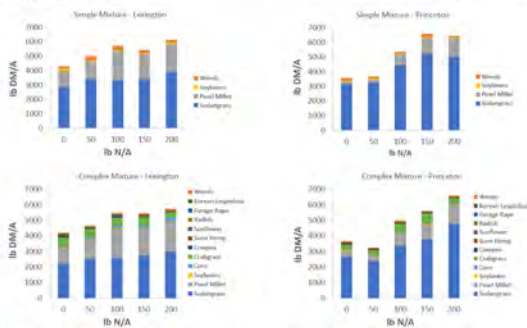


Figure 4. Impact of N rate on botanical composition of simple and complex mixtures.

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# IMPACT OF DEFOLIATION HEIGHT ON CROWN AND SOIL TEMPERATURE

Garrett J. Hatfield and Chris D. Teutsch  
Iowa State University and University of Kentucky

## Introduction

- In 2018, global temperatures were 1.42°F higher than the 20th-century average
- Higher summer temperatures in the transition zone of the U.S. may make cool-season grasses less well adapted, especially under poor management
- Increased defoliation height may moderate crown and soil temperature leading to enhanced persistence

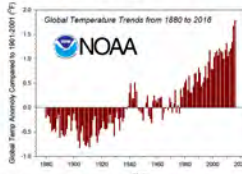


Figure 1. Global temperature trends from 1880 to 2016 (<https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cag/>).

## Objective

To evaluate the impact of defoliation height on soil and crown temperatures in an established tall fescue stand

## Materials & Methods

- Conducted at UK Research and Education Center located near Princeton, KY
- Experimental design was a RCB with four reps
- Plot size was 10 x 10 ft
- An established tall fescue sod was utilized
- Plots were defoliated weekly to 1.0 and 4.5 inches and monthly to 4.5 inches (Figs. 6 and 7)
- Crown and soil temperature were measured at 15 minute intervals using HOBO MX2303 loggers
  - Crown: sensor placed in the crown of plant
  - Soil: sensor placed at a soil depth of 4 inches
- A pivot table was used to calculate daily minimum, maximum, and average temperatures
- Daily data were analyzed using the General Linear Model procedure (SAS Institute, Cary, NC)

## Acknowledgement

We would like to thank USDA-NIFA for funding this undergraduate research project and travel to the 2020 AFGC Annual Conference in Greenville, SC.

Contact: [Chris.Teutsch@uky.edu](mailto:Chris.Teutsch@uky.edu) or 270-963-0066

## Results

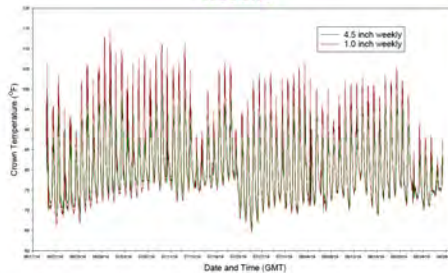


Figure 2. Crown temperature of the tall fescue plant measured at 15 minute intervals from June 19 to August 27, 2020.

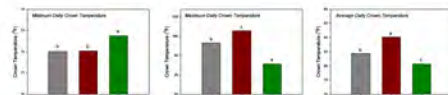


Figure 3. Impact of defoliation regime on the minimum, maximum, and average daily crown temperature.

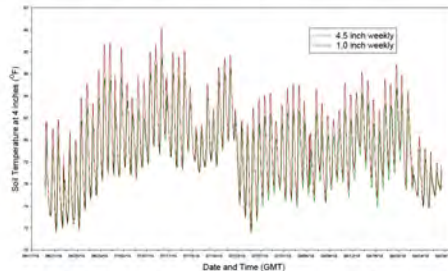


Figure 4. Soil temperature at 4 inches measured at 15 minute intervals from June 19 to August 27, 2020.

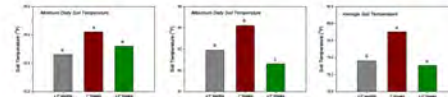


Figure 5. Impact of defoliation regime on the minimum, maximum, and average daily soil temperature at 4 inches.

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Funding for this project was provided by USDA-NIFA ELI-REU 2017-06637.



Figure 6. Plots were defoliated to 1.0 and 4.5 inches using a lawnmower with a bagging attachment.



Figure 7. HOBO MX2303 data loggers with two external temperature sensors (Onset, Bourne, MA) were installed to measure crown and soil temperature.

## Summary

- 1.0 inch defoliation height increased daily maximum crown and soil temp (Figs. 2, 3, 4, 5)
- During periods of high temperature, the difference between a defoliation height of 1 and 4.5 inches often exceeded 10°F
- After approx. one month of close and frequent defoliation (1 inch weekly), crabgrass became the dominate grass species (Fig. 8)
- Close and frequent defoliation negatively impacts photosynthesis, transpiration and energy reserves in cool-season grass plants
- Modifying microclimate at and below the soil surface could impact soil moisture (not measured in this study)
- Rotational stocking could moderate crown and soil temperatures in pastures
- Maintaining a defoliation height above 4.5 inches may help cool-season grasses persist during hot summers



Figure 8. After approximately one month, crabgrass dominated plots that were defoliated to 1 inch on a weekly basis (right). On the left is a plot defoliated to 4.5 inches.

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# ENHANCING THE PRECISION OF FROST SEEDING USING GPS GUIDANCE

Conner Raymond, Chris Teutsch, and Josh Jackson

UK Grain and Forage Center of Excellence and Biosystems & Agricultural Engineering

## Introduction

- Guidance using the global positioning system (GPS) has long been used in row crop ag
- High price of these systems has limited use in low input forage-livestock systems
- Lower costs and the availability of used guidance systems could increase use

## Objective

To evaluate the impact of using GPS Guidance on pasture coverage during overseeding.



Figure 1. Frost seeding red clover in February.

## Materials & Methods

- Conducted at UKREC located near Princeton, KY
- Experimental design was a RCB with 4 reps
  - Pasture served as replication
- Pasture size ranged from 6.2 to 10.6 acres
- A simulated frost seeding was conducted using a Kawasaki Mule UTV and a Raven Cruiser II guidance system (Raven Industries, Sioux Fall, SD)
- Target ground speed was 10 mph
- Target spread width was 30 ft
- All pastures overseeded first with NO GUIDANCE
  - GPS guidance was initiated and covered
- Then all pastures overseeded with GUIDANCE
- Data was exported from the guidance system in the form of shapefiles
- ARC GIS (ESRI, Redlands, CA) was to analyze the files for misses and overlaps
  - Bounding geography was created for pastures
  - Centroids created for each path-polygon
  - Centroids spatially joined to path-polygons to determine amount of overlap
  - Missed area determined using erase feature
- UTV speed data was downloaded for each pasture
  - Min, max, mean, and median were calculated
- Data for each pasture was analyzed using the General Linear Model procedure (SAS, Cary, NC)

Contact: [Chris.Teutsch@uky.edu](mailto:Chris.Teutsch@uky.edu) or 270-963-0066

## NO GPS Guidance

## GPS Guidance

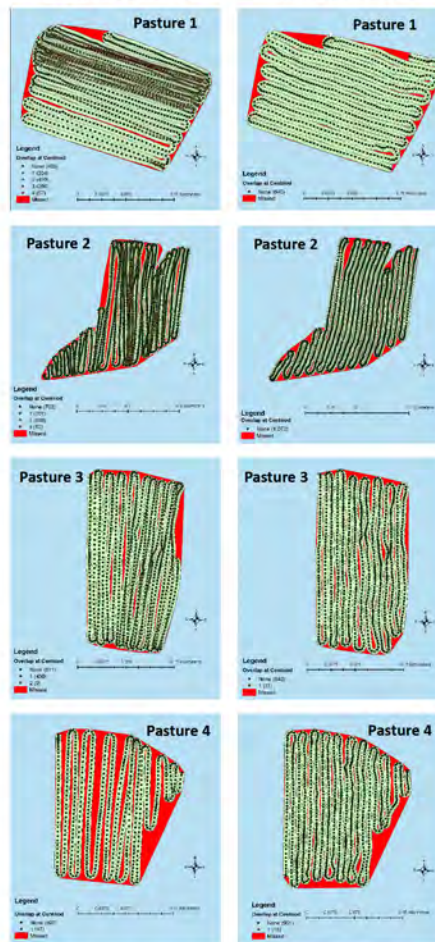


Figure 2. Coverage for pastures 1, 2, 3, and 4 with or without GPS Guidance.

## Results

- No guidance resulted in increased overlap
- Guidance had no impact on missed areas
- Mean and median speed were not impacted by guidance

Table 1. Impact of GPS guidance on misses, overlaps, and mean and median speed.

| Guidance       | Missed      | Overlap     | Mean Speed  | Median Speed |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
|                | %           | %           | mph         | mph          |
| No Guidance    | 14.0        | 49.8        | 10.0        | 10.3         |
| Guidance       | 10.0        | 3.0         | 9.2         | 9.3          |
| <b>P-Value</b> | <b>0.49</b> | <b>0.09</b> | <b>0.38</b> | <b>0.41</b>  |

## Summary & Implications

- In this study, overseeding without guidance resulted in an 50% overlap
- At an overseeding cost of \$24/acre, the increased cost of seeding without guidance would be \$12/acre
- The cost of the guidance system (\$2,000) could be recouped in as little as 165 acres
- The guidance system could also be used for other operations such as spreading fertilizer, lime or litter, no-till seeding, and herbicide application



Figure 3. Frost seeding a mixture of red clover, annual lespedeza, and crabgrass using GPS guidance.



  
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 Kentucky Master Grazer Educational Program

## Acknowledgement

We would like to thank Greg Comer, ANR Agent, Ohio County, for encouraging us to conduct this study.

# NOTES

# NOTES

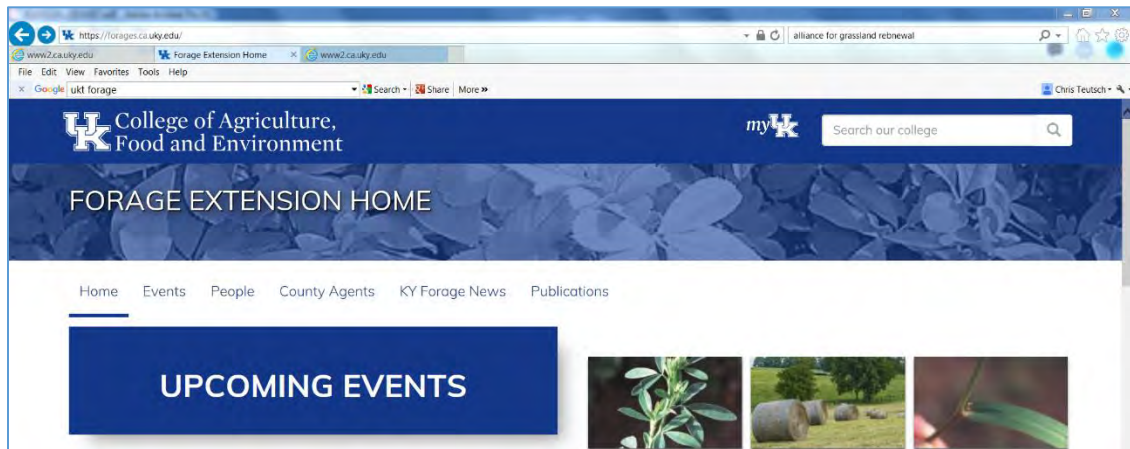
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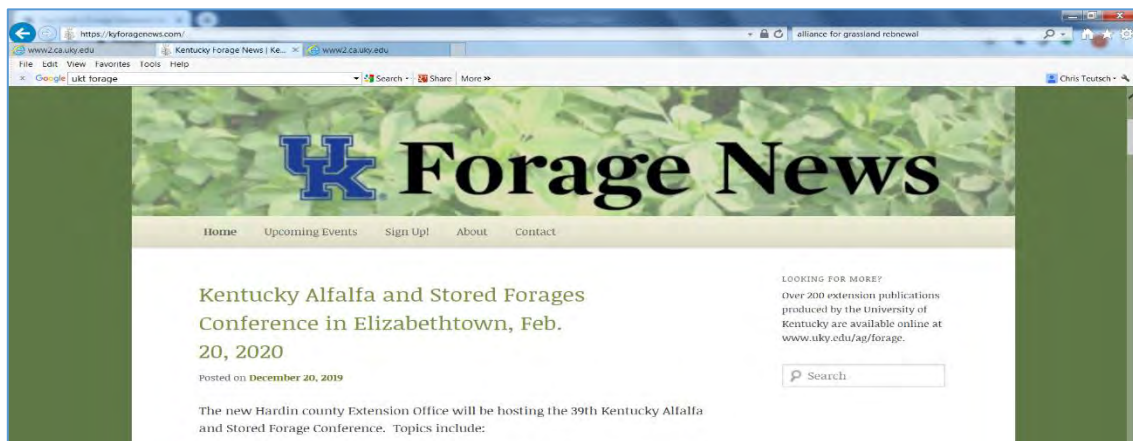




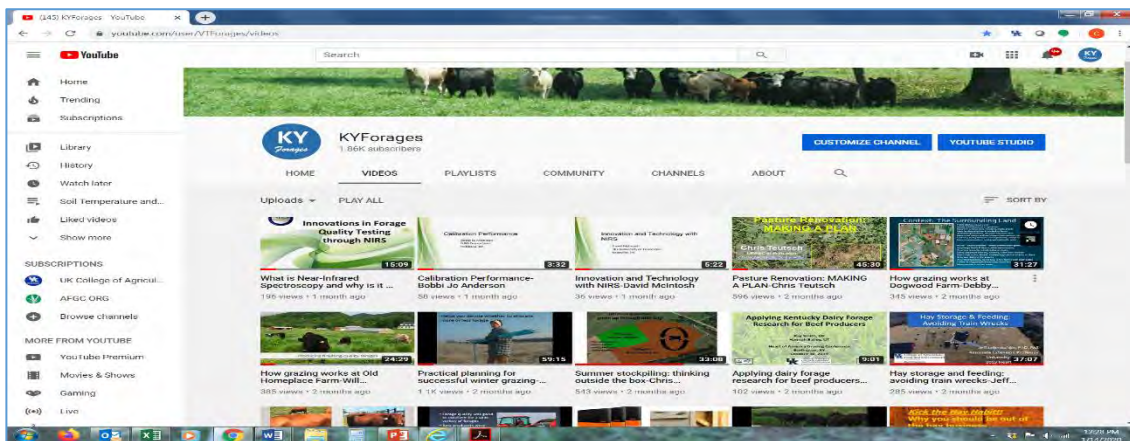
# FORAGE RESOURCES IN KENTUCKY



UK Forages Website at <https://forages.ca.uky.edu/>



UK Forage News at <https://kyforagenews.com/>



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