

Indiana Forage Council, Inc.
2016 Activities Report
Keith D. Johnson, Secretary

The annual meeting of the Indiana Forage Council was held on February 7, 2016 in conjunction with a sponsored meal and seminar at “Ceruti’s at Eagle Glen Golf Course” in Columbia City. The theme of the seminar was “Opportunities with Low-Lignin Alfalfa and Annual Forages.” Michael Laird, the Forage Specialist at Winfield, updated attendees about the low-lignin trait in alfalfa. Forage producers Kevin Eash, Mark Kepler and Jason Schneider discussed how they have incorporate annual forages into their livestock production systems.

At the annual meeting and seminar, the Outstanding Forage Producer Award was presented to Manning Cattle Company (Ronnie, Clint, Ethan and Brady Manning). They were recognized for using excellent forage practices on their beef cattle farm. Dr. Mark Hilton, Purdue University veterinarian and coordinator of the Integrated Resource Management program for beef cattle, was awarded the Maurice E. Heath Award. Dr. Hilton coordinated on-farm training for veterinarian students with beef interests. Forage production and utilization is an important component of the Integrated Resource Management Program.

Many members helped the Indiana Beef Cattle Association at the food tent the organization manages at the Indiana State Fair. This has been a successful venture as much networking occurs among those working the event.

The Indiana FFA Foundation continues to receive support from the council as a co-sponsor of the FFA’s Forage Proficiency Award.

Discussion of a daylong forage tour to occur in south central Indiana in the summer of 2017 and being an active participant in Grazing 102, a pasture production and utilization program that will be offered in 2017, occurred in 2016. The leadership team also discussed and a request for co-sponsored funds to purchase grazing sticks for resale occurred late in the year.