

# Louisiana Forage Farmer

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## LFGC Membership Dues

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- LFGC Membership dues
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- Acadiana Beef Producers Field Day

### *Suggested Articles*

“Bermudagrass germplasm tolerance to bermudagrass stem maggot (BSM)”

“Heat tolerant annual ryegrass: allowing for earlier establishment”

“Evaluation of herbicide-impregnated dry fertilizer for winter annual broadleaf weed control”

The LFGC annual membership dues for 2018 are now due. If you did not pay your annual dues at the LFGC annual meeting in December, please fill out the form at the end of this newsletter and send it in as soon as possible. LFGC strives to put on some excellent programs and the organization needs your involvement. If you want to continue to receive this newsletter and other publications from LFGC and AFGC, please send in your dues today or you risk being dropped from the membership list.

## 2017 LFGC Annual Meeting Summary

Despite snowy conditions present throughout much of south Louisiana on December 8, the LFGC annual meeting was held in Alexandria. A summary of the meeting can be found in the article below:

An LSU AgCenter forage specialist said cattle producers should consider planting clover in pastures because of the advantages as a food source. Dr. Wink Alison, LSU AgCenter forage specialist, said clover can improve pasture health because of nitrogen fixation. “It will fix atmospheric nitrogen into a form the plant can use.” Alison said clover is highly digestible and it is higher in total digestible nutrients than other grasses. He said forage production for unfertilized clover is just as high as grass fertilized with 100 pounds of nitrogen fertilizer. He said clover has the desired characteristic of good persistence. “I want persistence. I don’t care about the yield.”



Also at the meeting, Ted Miller, who has dairy and beef cattle near Baskin, talked about his use of the leader-follower system for controlled grazing. He said pasture planted in clover is first grazed in the spring by lactating cows because they have higher nutrient needs, followed by bred heifers in mid-gestation. He said open breeding-age heifers are given first priority in the fall, followed by bred cows and heifers. He said to avoid using a drill planter; seed is broadcast in late-summer where cattle are grazing. “We’re finding that trampling impact is giving us some impressive germination. We’re learning that cows’ hooves do a good job of planting grass.”

Liz Garcia from the University of Florida gave an overview of her research on pollinators in pastureland. She said bee populations are declining but the insects can coexist with cattle and pastures. Native bees use the roots of forage plants for nesting, she said. Dr. Ed Twidwell, LSU AgCenter forage agronomist, told council members about his tour of forage seed production operations in Oregon in May. He said all ryegrass seed originates in Oregon. The seed operation is highly controlled, Twidwell said, with a certification process to ensure variety integrity and proper germination.

Kevin Norton of the Natural Resources Conservation Service said the NRCS partnered with the LSU AgCenter for a \$900,000 cover crop study on cropland and pastures. He said the AgCenter and the Louisiana Master Farmer Program are also working with the NRCS on a series of workshops on soil health. The first two will be held Jan. 23 in West Monroe at the Hampton Inn, and at the DeWitt Livestock Building at the Dean Lee Research Station on Jan. 24. Participants will receive credit for Phase 2 of the Louisiana Master Farmer Program, Certified Master Farmers and

certified crop advisers who attend will receive continuing education credit. Norton said congress is expected to take up the next farm bill after Jan. 1, and NRCS funding for conservation projects are included in the legislation. The current farm bill expires next year on Sept. 30

## Publication on Flood Damage to Pastures

Forage extension agronomists from the University of Arkansas and the LSU AgCenter have written a publication titled: “Flood Damage and Recovery Management for Forages.” The lead author is John



Jennings, from the University of Arkansas. The publication provides a flood recovery checklist, assessing flood damage to forages, and case studies from flooding events in Arkansas and Louisiana. The publication can be accessed from the link below:

<https://www.uaex.edu/publications/pdf/FSA-3145.pdf>.

## Acadiana Beef Producers Field Day

Date: Saturday, March 3, 2018

Time: 8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (Registration begins at 8:00 a.m.)

Place: Iberia Research Station, Jeanerette

### Indoor Program

- Use of cover crops and effects on soil health
- Export market and its impact on US beef prices and policies
- Resistance to dewormers and control of internal parasites

### Outdoor Program

- Control of annual ryegrass in bermudagrass hay meadows
- Alternatives to improve the use of nitrogen fertilizer on pastures:
  - Update and field demonstration
- Care of the newborn calf: how to handle problems
- Evaluation of low vs high input cow/calf management systems
  
- Door prizes and lunch provided
- Sponsors: LCA, LFGC, LSU AgCenter, LBIC

### *Suggested Articles*

## **Bermudagrass germplasm tolerance to bermudagrass stem maggot (BSM)**

William Anderson, Dennis Hancock, Lisa Baxter and Will Hudson  
University of Georgia

Bermudagrass is the most important perennial forage crop grown for pasture and hay in the Southeast (about 20 million acres).



*(Bermudagrass stem maggot)*

Bermudagrass stem maggot (BSM) is an invasive insect pest that reduces yield of forage bermudagrass hay if it is not controlled. The pest is native to SE Asia, was first documented in North America near Los Angeles, California in 2009 and has since spread throughout the southeast, infesting bermudagrass hayfields as far north as Kentucky and as far west as Texas. A core collection of over 300 forage bermudagrass accessions were evaluated in the field for susceptibility to BSM. Tolerant lines were then evaluated in a replicated field study for yield loss due to the insect by comparing sprayed controlled plots to unsprayed plots in Tifton, Georgia starting in 2016 through the summer of 2017. For clippings in mid-to-late summer, BSM reduced yield of Alicia and Russell by over 40% and Tifton 85 by up to 35%. However, some plant introductions in the germplasm collection exhibited less than 10% yield loss and had dry matter hay yields comparable to Tifton 85. These accessions will be further evaluated and used in plant breeding.

Source: 2018 AFGC Proceedings

## Heat tolerant annual ryegrass: allowing for earlier establishment

E.D. Billman, J.L. Morrison and B.S. Baldwin  
Mississippi State University

Annual ryegrass is a cool-season forage used as a feedstuff for beef operations throughout much of the southeastern United States. Late-summer or early-fall planting of annual ryegrass is of high desirability, as it increases available forage to cattle earlier in the season and allows for increased seasonal



weight gain. However, temperatures during late-summer and early-fall often exceed 90 °F in southern states that rely on annual ryegrass for winter grazing, such as AL, GA, FL, LA, MS and TX. The objective of this research was to develop heat-tolerant annual ryegrass through recurrent phenotypic selection that will germinate and survive when planted in high temperature conditions earlier in the growing season. Seed of the cultivar Marshall and subsequent cycles of selection were subjected to high temperature germination screening in growth chambers at 104 °F in 2015, 2016 and 2017. Seedlings that successfully germinated and survived for 14 days advanced to cycle 1, cycle 2 and cycle 3, sequentially. In 2017, a significant increase in germination at 104 °F was observed between cycle 2 (18%) and the initial cycle (3%). A significant delay in days to maturity was also observed between cycle 2 (115 days) and the initial cycle (105 days). The results indicate that selection for quantitative traits in annual ryegrass is possible with recurrent phenotypic selection. Selection for heat tolerance concurrently

affected maturity, indicating the two traits may be linked.

Source: 2018 AFGC Proceedings

## Evaluation of herbicide-impregnated dry fertilizer for winter annual broadleaf weed control

K.M. Davis, B. Griffin, K.J. Simon, J.A. Jennings and B. Williams  
University of Arkansas

Winter annual broadleaf weeds can overtake a pasture when left untreated. Proper weed control requires an integrated approach of herbicide and fertility management. Due to time constraints or lack of equipment, many forage producers fail to do both. In 2017, GrazonNext HL received a label in AR for mixing with dry fertilizer allowing a producer to control broadleaf weeds and promote forage growth in one pass across the pasture. A replicated on-farm research trial was conducted for broadleaf weed control featuring seven treatments to evaluate the effectiveness of conventional foliar-sprayed herbicides and separately-applied dry fertilizer versus herbicide-impregnated dry fertilizer. Fertilizer was applied according to soil test recommendations for warm-season grass pasture. Phosphorus and potassium were applied with the herbicide treatments on March 20. Nitrogen was applied one month later. Herbicides were applied at 1 quart/acre with 0.25% nonionic surfactant using a boom sprayer. Treatments were evaluated on day 21 and again on day 70. We found that GrazonNext HL-impregnated dry fertilizer had 80% control of winter annual broadleaf weeds, while foliar applications of all herbicides ranged from 90-98% control. The year of 2017 was an optimal year for applying

GrazonNext HL-impregnated dry fertilizer, as rainfall is needed to activate the herbicide. This is a great option for small weeds, less than 6 inches in height.

Source: 2018 AFGC Proceedings

**LOUISIANA FORAGE AND GRASSLAND COUNCIL**

*ACTIVITIES:*

- \* ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN DECEMBER
- \* TOURS AND FIELD DAYS      \* STATE HAY SHOW
- \* QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
- \* RECEIVE THE FORAGE LEADER, A NATIONAL PUBLICATION FROM AFGC
- \* RECOGNIZE OUTSTANDING PRODUCERS

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**Membership Application Form  
Louisiana Forage and Grassland Council**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Dues are \$35

Make checks payable to LFGC or the Louisiana Forage and Grassland Council

Mail to:            Ed Twidwell  
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                      220 Sturgis Hall  
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