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OFGC - Ohio Forage and Grasslands Council

2016 Ohio Forage and Grasslands Council's Annual Conference

Spring 2016

About OFGC:

We represent a collective voice for issues affecting forage animal agriculture.

We develop present and future leaders in the forage industry.

We encourage research, education, and service efforts to improve forage production, utilization, and marketing.

OFGC strives to provide a forum or means for the exchange of ideas, problems/opportunities, and solutions in forage animal agriculture.

OFGC Mission:

The Ohio Forage and Grassland Council exists to enhance the profitability of Ohio farmers through the use of forage and grassland resources, and to facilitate the opportunity for collective interaction between producers and other forage workers, both public and private.

The Ohio Forage and Grasslands Council Annual Conference will be held February 19, 2016 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Ohio Department of Agriculture in Reynoldsburg, OH.

The program theme is *"Fitting the Pieces Together in a Forage System."* The keynote speaker will be Dr. Stacey Hamilton, University of Missouri Extension State Dairy Specialist, who will discuss *"Balancing*

risk and rewards of annual and perennial pastures" as well as *"What we are learning about irrigating pastures,"* based on his work with grass-based dairies in Missouri.

A highlight of the program is always the *Producer Panel*, and that tradition will continue with several producers highlighting their forage, dairy, sheep, and beef production systems.

Producers on the Producer Panel are as follows:

Beef – Bill Lawhon
Sheep – Eric Bruns
Dairy – Kyle Sharp
Hay – Justin Owens

Details of the program and a registration form will be available at <http://www.afgc.org/ohio.php>

Registration will be due by February 12, 2016. For more information contact Gary Wilson at osuagman@gmail.com or (419) 348-3500 or email ofgc@afgc.org.

ARE WE MOVING FORWARD? LET US KNOW!

This organization was founded by a group of people with a vision. They saw a need for an organization to help producers understand the value for forages and grassland and the benefit they bring to the Earth. Some of these people have passed from this Earth, which they helped make better. Some are still here, trying to make the world even better.

One of the problems we are having is adding and maintaining membership. Some of the leaders of this organization are its founding members. What do we do when they are not able to help? We need to plan for their replacements. Leadership comes from the membership. Are we providing a value to

you for your membership? We are in a changing times, are we changing with these times? What you expect and what you get are not always the same. But, we need to know what you expect, than try to get you that.

Your board of directors has had limited discussions on all of these topics, but not in depth. With that thought in mind, your board has decided to do some strategic planning for the future. Our hope is to keep this organization moving into the future. We owe that to the people past and present, who started this organization.

With this said, we have hired a firm to help us work our way thru this process and

keep us on task. Now it is time for you, the membership to do your part. This firm will be sending out a survey to many, maybe all of you, to get your input. We need your input, so we know what you want from your organization. If you do not get a survey and want your voice heard, let us know. If you know of an individual who was and no longer is a member and whose input would be of value to us in this process, let us know.

When we get all of this information back and analyzed, we will let you know how we plan on moving your organization forward.

We thank you in advance for the time and effort you are putting into this.

President's Article

by Dan Fullenkamp

Hello and welcome to the fall/winter addition of the Ohio Forage and Grassland Council (OFGC) newsletter. My name is Dan Fullenkamp and I am the 2015 President of the Council Board of Directors. First a brief introduction of myself and my farm operation. I was raised on the dairy farm I currently own and operate. I am the fourth generation to operate this farm of my father's family. I also operate the farm where my mother was raised and I am the fourth generation farming that land. I am married to my wife, Beck, and have three married children, Dave, Julie and Brian. We have two granddaughters one six and one four and in July our son Dave had triplet's two girls and a boy. I operate a 70-80 cow dairy which I switched to organic in 2006. I farm 300 acres, which produce most of the feed needs. I raise all my replacements and have been a closed herd for 30 years.

On to the business of the OFGC, We held our reorganization meeting on April 13 at the NRCS office in Delaware, Ohio. The election of officers was held and the results can be found in the newsletter. With the appointment of one board member, we now have a full board to help run the business of your organization. All board member's names and contact information are included in this newsletter. Feel free to contact any of us and we will work to help you in any way we can. Also, OFGC has partnered with Tina Bowling to provide association services to the council. One of her primary duties is to keep me and the board on task. Feel free to contact Tina at any time.

We had a very productive summer schedule with all events well attended. We were pleased to be sponsoring meetings on our own, but equally proud that we could partner with other organizations to provide you with outstanding

educational opportunities.

The OFGC annual meeting is scheduled for February 19, 2016 at the Ohio Department of Agriculture in Reynoldsburg. Information is included with this newsletter, so I invite you to look over what OFGC has planned this year and put the annual meeting on your calendar. Membership information is also included in this mailing and I encourage you to renew your membership. Also, I suggest you visit our website for additional updates on the annual meeting.

Thank you for taking time to read this newsletter, if you have any suggestions or comments feel free to express them. I am looking forward to meeting you at the annual meeting.

Dan Fullenkamp
OFGC President

OFGC Award Nominations...Now Open

Jack Tucker Distinguished Service Awards

Given to an individual or entity who has provided outstanding service to the Forage Industry in Ohio. This award is given in memory of Jack Tucker, a founding Board member of OFGC.

Outstanding Producer Award

Given for outstanding Service to a forage producer from Ohio.

Bob Evans Award

Awarded to individuals who have given exemplary service for promotion and service to the forage industry in Ohio.

Email nominations to Gary Wilson at osuagman@gmail.com by January 25, 2016.

Upcoming Industry Events

Northern Indiana Grazing Conference February 5-6, 2016 Michiana Event Ctr, Howe, IN

Speakers include:

Gary Zimmer, Reggie Destree, David Schlabach, Jim Adkins and James Landis

http://www.lagrangeswcd.org/_mgxroot/page_10791.html

Southern Indiana Grazing Conference March 2, 2016, Crane, IN

Speakers include:

Allan Nation (Stockman Grass Farmer Magazine), Wesley Tucker, and Doug Peterson.

For more information contact the Daviess County Soil and Water Conservation office at 812-254-4780, Ext 3, email Toni Allison dc.swcd@daviess.org, or visit <http://www.daviesscoswcd.org/index.php/sigc> or <https://www.facebook.com/SouthernIndianaGrazingConference>

2016 Kentucky Small Ruminant Grazing Conference
February 6, 2016
Boyd County Fairgrounds
Catlettsburg, KY
<http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage/>

2016 Kentucky Grazing School
May 17-18, 2016
Woodford County Extension Office
Versailles, KY
<http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage/>

Additional events are listed on the AFGC event page: http://afgc.associationsonline.com/site_page.cfm?pk_association_webpage_menu=543&pk_association_webpage=4095

Heart of America Grazing Conference



Date: Jan. 25-26
Location: Hilton Downtown
369 West Vine Street
Lexington, KY 40507
Registration: \$50 One Day/\$85 Two Days
Discounted until Jan. 13
www.uky.edu/ag/forage
Sessions: Curing Fescue Toxicosis
Alfalfa Mini-Symposia
Extending the Grazing Season

Exhibitor Space Available:
<https://hoagrazingconference.eventbrite.com>

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Website
www.afgc.org/ohio.php

Executive Committee:

President- Dan Fullenkamp
Vice President- Megan Burgess
Secretary/ Treasurer- Bob Hendershot
Past President- Gene DeBruin
Director- Val Jorgenson
Director- Perry Clutts

OFGC Committees

Membership & Finance

1. Bob Hendershot (Chair)
2. Jeff Bielek
3. Megan Burgess
4. Tina Bowling

Awards & Nominations

1. Gary Wilson (Chair)
2. Jeff McCutcheon
3. Gene DeBruin
4. Megan Burgess
5. Mark Sulc

Nominating Committee:

1. Dan Fullenkamp (Chair)
2. Jeff McCutcheon
3. Rory Lewandoski
4. Rose Smith
5. Megan Burgess

Special Committees:

Essay Contest Judges:

1. Mark Sulc (Chair)
2. Rose Smith
3. Rory Lewandoski
4. Megan Burgess

Educational & Annual Meeting

1. Mark Sulc (Chair)
2. Gary Wilson
3. Val Jorgenson
4. Perry Clutts
5. Dan Fullenkamp
6. Megan Burgess
7. Tina Bowling

NRCS State Technical Committee

Representative:

Rep.-Rick Leslie
1st Alternate-Dan Fullenkamp

OFGC Officers & Directors

President: Dan Fullenkamp Vice President: Megan Burgess
Secretary/ Treasurer: Bob Hendershot Past President: Gene DeBruin

2015-2016 Directors- Twelve
(Nine Producers and Three Forage Interest):

Term Expires 2016

Jeff McCutcheon 419-947-1070
Rory Lewandoski 330-264-8722
Dan Fullenkamp 419-925-4235
Rose Smith

Term Expires 2017

Megan Burgess 330-317-3327
Val Jorgenson 614-558-7253
Gary Wilson 419-348-3500
Gene DeBruin 740-636-0073

Term Expires 2018

Bob Hendershot 740-477-1114
Phillip Bauer 567-674-4986
Jeff Bielek 330-264-5281
Perry Clutts 740-248-1448