



# The Forage Leader

FALL 2010

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Leadership Conference
- Calendar of Events
- Affiliate Spotlight
- Producer Spotlight
- Award and Contest Winners

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Gavel Exchange 2
- PFGC 50th Anniversary 2
- Emerging Scientist 3
- Calendar of Events 4
- AFGC Updates 5
- Presidential Citation 6
- Affiliate Spotlight 7

## Arkansas's 300 Day Grazing Program

John Jennings, Kenny Simon, Tom Troxel, Brett Barham, Shane Gadberry, and Steve Jones  
University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture

Increased cost of feed, fuel, and fertilizer make it difficult for livestock producers to stay in business. Three years ago, the University of Arkansas Animal Science Extension specialists along with a county agent advisory committee discussed ways to help livestock producers manage production costs. In Arkansas, like many other states, livestock producers rely heavily on hay and other stored feed during winter. The hay feeding season for many producers was four to five months. The 300 Day Grazing Program was developed to help producers reduce the expense of winter feeding and to help maximize use of their greatest resource - forages.

The program emphasized on-farm demonstration of eight practices including improving grazing management, adding complementary forages such



300 Day Grazing Herd

as summer or winter annuals, adding legumes, stockpiling bermudagrass or fescue, and reducing hay losses by improved storage and feeding practices. The program was designed so a beef, horse, or small ruminant producer

could choose the demonstrations that best suited his operation and management. Protocols and record keeping notebooks were developed for each demonstration so the producer and county agent knew the sequence of recommendations and the information to be collected for project success. The program is a team effort including Extension specialists, county agents, and producers.

Three farms were selected to serve as "whole farm" demonstrations to include as many practices as necessary to achieve a grazing season of 300 days or more. Fortunately, resources also became available to implement the same "whole

*Continued on Page 10*

## Producer Spotlight—Matt Flynt



Matt Flynt and Family

Situated 20 miles east of Little Rock, FLY'N "T" CATTLE COMPANY makes its home in the small town of Lonoke, Arkansas. Owner/Operator Matt Flynt grew up on a hay farm producing horse quality bermudagrass hay with his father, Jim Flynt. Managed intensive grazing is all about efficient utilization of a resource which would otherwise be unutilized or underutilized.

This is basically the ideology which led Matt Flynt to becoming involved in the cattle or grass utilization business. As farm manager and fisheries biologist of a large commercial fish farm, Matt saw the tremendous expense of mowing to maintain the fish pond levees. He decided to use grazing to make use of the grass by-product that they were spending a significant amount

*Continued on Page 4*



**Bob Hendershot,  
2010-2011 AFGC  
President**

***PFGC Motto***

*“Farmers, industry  
and educators  
working together  
for better forage  
programs”*

## Gavel Exchange

Many thanks go out to the Missouri Forage and Grassland Council, Mark Kennedy, and all the many volunteers that helped organize and direct the activities of our annual conference in Springfield, Missouri. We had a very successful conference with a full display area, competitive contests, wonderful tours (it was a little warm, but the Missouri night made up for the warm temperatures) and a very good program. Someone commented to me that you can tell the quality of the program by the number of people lingering in the hallways during the sessions. If the program is good very few people are standing in the hallway or in the display area. The few times that I had an errand to run or to prepare for the next activity the hallways were nearly vacant except for that occasional person on a cell phone. Most of the sessions were full and some had standing room only. If you could not make the annual conference, copies of the proceedings are available at our website [www.afgc.org](http://www.afgc.org).

Tina Bowling, our new executive director, made her debut at the conference. Everyone finds Tina full of excitement, energy and ideas for AFGC. She is a very good and helpful addition to our organization. She keeps us moving forward. Look for new and

updated things from AFGC in the near future, including our webpage. Give Tina a call if your council has something to add to the event calendar.

Taking over as president of American Forage and Grassland Council is a very humbling experience for me. I never dreamed of being president of AFGC when I joined so many years ago, even before Ohio had an affiliate council. Growing up on a family farm in north central Ohio being president of your 4-H Club or an FFA officer was big. As an adult I have had the privilege of being president of three statewide organizations, but I still remember the phone call when I was asked to run for a public director position on the AFGC board. I have seen our organization grow and develop from the inside over the past decade or more. This organization has a great history.

It is an honor and privilege to pen this “Gavel Exchange” article. The previous presidents have left quite a legacy. It is like the who’s who of modern forage agriculture when one looks over the list of names. That is one reason I am so humbled. When Miles Kuhn handed me the gavel at the banquet I was overwhelmed with

the honor and privilege to serve the forage industry. I would like to thank Miles for tutoring me this past year. Thank you Miles on behalf of AFGC for piloting us through a transition year, your leadership did not go unnoticed.

I like history. Did you know that AFGC was once the American Grassland Council and officially changed its name in 1968 to the American Forage and Grassland Council? In 1963 the Pennsylvania Grassland Council received the first charter as an affiliate council to what became the AFGC. The Pennsylvania council was formed in November 1960. They will be celebrating their Fiftieth Anniversary on November 23. I have the privilege to be one of the speakers at this celebration, if you have a comment or memory on the early years of AFGC, please share it with me and I will happy to include it in my remarks at the Pennsylvania celebration.

## PFGC to hold 50th Anniversary Event

The Pennsylvania Forage and Grassland Council (PFGC) will celebrate its 50th Anniversary, “50 Years of Forage Achievement” at a one day conference to be held on November 23, 2010, at the Shady Maple Banquet and Conference Center located in East Earl, PA, 3 miles east of

New Holland, in the heart of Pennsylvania’s Amish Country.

The agenda for the conference includes a group of outstanding speakers covering a wide range of topics dealing with growing and utilizing forages profitably. The keynote speaker is Steve

Larson, Editor of Hoard’s Dairyman Magazine.

PFGC, founded in 1960, was the first state grassland council formed in the U.S. and the first to affiliate with AFGC. PFGC’s motto is, “Farmers, industry and educators working together for better forage programs.”

# 2010 Emerging Scientist Winners



Miles Kuhn, AFGC President; Jennifer Johnson, 2nd Place; Laura Schwer, 1st Place; Emi Kimura, 3rd Place; Yoana Newman, Committee Chair

This year's Emerging Scientist Competition featured six participants who provided 15 minute presentations on a variety of subjects. A panel of judges evaluates the presentations and determines the winners.

First place went to Laura Schwer of the University of Kentucky, followed by Jennifer Johnson

of the University of Kentucky with second place, while there was a third place tie between Emi Kimura of the University of Wyoming and Christin Herbst of the University of Kentucky.

The competition was sponsored by Dow AgroSciences.



*Interested in participating in a competition and being recognized by your peers then enter today!*

[www.afgc.org](http://www.afgc.org)

# 2010 Forage Spokesperson Winners



Miles Kuhn, AFGC President and Matt Flynt, 2010 Forage Spokesperson of the Year

AFGC Affiliate Councils nominate individuals to compete in the Forage Spokesperson competition. Each individual is provided with 15 minutes to present on a topic of choice. A panel of

judges evaluates the presentations and presents the awards.

This year's winners are: First Place, Matt Flynt, representing Arkansas Forage and Grassland Council; Second Place, Doug

Hanson, representing Illinois Forage and Grassland Council; and Third Place, Mitch Pearce, representing Indiana Forage Council.

The competition was sponsored by Forage Genetics.



Miles Kuhn and Doug Hanson



Miles Kuhn and Mitch Pearce

# 2010 Forage Bowl

AFGC's Forage Bowl pits college teams against one another in a "Jeopardy-Like" setting.

This year the University of Kentucky won first place with team members Krista Cotton and Kelly Vaughn. Second place was awarded to Western Kentucky University with team members Christopher Gerald, Morgan McGuire and Marie Weldon. Third place was awarded to Berea

College with team members Shauni Nichols and Lisa Baxter.

The Forage Bowl was sponsored by The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation.

**Interested in entering a team in the 2011 Forage Bowl? Contact Tina Bowling at 800-944-2342.**

## September 2010

- September 1, 2010—National Hay Association Annual Conference
- September 14, 2010—Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council Field Day
- September 23, 2010—2nd Annual Beef Bash
- September 25, 2010—World Equestrian Games

More information about these events can be found at [www.afgc.org](http://www.afgc.org).

## Oct.-Nov 2010

- October 1, 2010—McNeese State University 5th Annual Heifer Enhancement and Development Program
- October 5, 2010—7th Eastern Native Grass Symposium
- November 9-10, 2010—AFGC Leadership Conference
- November 9-10, 2010—Missouri Forage & Grassland Council/GLCI Conference
- November 16, 2010—Alfalfa Intensive Training Seminar, European Grassland Federation
- November 23, 2010—PFGC 50th Anniversary Celebration

## Future Events

- January 18, 2011—VFGC 2011 Winter Forage Conference
- January 25, 2011—10th Heart of America Grazing Conference
- January 27, 2011—13th Annual Midwest Value Added Agriculture Conference
- February 15, 2011—PA Professional Crop Producers Conference
- February 24, 2011—31st Kentucky Alfalfa Conference
- June 12-15, 2011—AFGC Annual Conference in French Lick, IN



Matt Flynt and Family

## Producer Spotlight from Front Page

of time and money to get rid of. Conventional continuous grazing systems result in less than desirable results due to an inability to control grazing pressure and stocking densities. It can cause pond levee erosion and leave areas of excessive grass growth limiting visibility of the waters edge for monitoring of fish health. A rotational grazing management regime solves most of these problems. Rotational grazing meets the forage maintenance goals of an aquaculture facility and also meets the goals and requirements providing quality levels of forage needed for a beef cattle enterprise. Due to the expansive number of acres of water, the animal stocking rate posed no threat to water quality so

both cattle and fish health were maintained.

Matt's philosophy is that "forage produced but not utilized does not help a ranch's profitability".

To make optimum use of their forage base, the Flynt's use a fence line weaning system. This puts less stress on the calves and everyone keeps their head in the grass doing what cows do, eating. They retain ownership of calves and sell yearling calves in pot loads. To try and be more efficient operators, they soil sample utilizing grids and try to match forage intake with animal needs. Matt also utilizes GPS systems and other modern technology to try and think outside of the box.

It's now been 13 years since Matt purchased his first load of beef cattle. He runs approximately 120 momma cows while maintaining a commercial horse hay business. Matt is married to Kelly Felton, also of Lonoke. The farm is a family business and they spend many nights in the seat of a tractor, repairing broken down equipment, and closely monitoring their cow herd during the calving season. They are blessed with two healthy girls, Caroline, who will be 5 in August and Kendall, who is 16 months old. Caroline, who enjoys checking and moving the cows with her daddy, is always full of questions and suggestions.

## VFGC 2011 Winter Forage Conferences Temple Grandin to Speak



**Temple Grandin**

*Essential Topics in Animal Agriculture: What Farmers Need to Know* is the theme for the Virginia Forage and Grassland Council (VFGC) and Virginia Cooperative Extension

winter forage conferences. This is an ideal opportunity for all livestock producers to gain an understanding of animal psychology and behavior leading to: reduced stress and injury to animals and people; higher quality animal products; a safer work environment; improved animal welfare; and lower total costs of production.

This year's keynote speaker is Dr. Temple Grandin, Professor of Animal Science at Colorado State University and internationally known expert on animal behavior. She is listed in the 2010 TIME 100, Time magazine's annual list of the 100 most influential people in the world. Dr. Grandin will provide research-based insights and knowledge into animal behavior and how to

improve transportation, handling, and working facilities to reduce stress and improve animal welfare.

The daylong conference will be repeated at three locations:

Tuesday, January 18, in Wytheville at the Wytheville Meeting Center

Wednesday, January 19, in Madison Heights at the Madison Heights Community Center

Thursday, January 20, in Weyers Cave at the Weyers Cave Community Center.

The conferences will run from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm. Please visit the VFGC web site (<http://vaforges.org>) for additional details and registration information.

## 2010 Youth in Grazing Management

AFGC's Youth in Grazing Management essay contest is divided into age categories. Subject matter may be anything pertaining to grazing management, including but not limited to, personal experiences, observation or explanation of grazing practices, livestock management on pasture, fencing or other

equipment related to grazing management, plant or animal species response to grazing management, or any other subject matter related to grazing management.

2010 winners include:  
Youth – First Place, Paul Shank, Belle, Missouri.

University – First Place, Heather Herschberger, The Ohio State University; Second Place, Andrea Eilenfeld, The Ohio State University; and Third Place, Elisabeth Bianco, The Ohio State University.

R.L. and Pat Dalrymple, Elstel Farm & Seed sponsored the contest.

*Communication  
is the key to  
success so  
speak up and  
share your  
thoughts...be  
heard!*

## AFGC UPDATES

AFGC National Office is undergoing some changes to improve services to our members. We welcome feedback on what you feel would be a beneficial service that is not currently being provided or a service that you think needs to be improved. Some of the things we are working on include the following:

- New online database to house membership information
- Online credit card processing with real time receipts
- Improved Certified Grassland Professional program with guidelines and brochure
- Revised Forage Leader layout
- New website
- And much more

AFGC is also encouraging Affiliate Councils to contact the national office to discuss membership submissions so that a mutual procedure for membership processing can be developed based on the needs of the council. We want to make the process as efficient as possible so that members receive benefits timely!

# 2010 Photo Contest



Chris Geralds—1st Place

The purpose of the contest is to recognize, through photography, the multi-faceted uses of forages. There were 19 entries in the 2010 competition.

First place went to Chris Geralds, Kentucky, while second place was awarded to Glenn Shewmaker, University of Idaho. Third place went to Clayton Geralds, Kentucky.

This year's competition was sponsored by Ampac Seed.



Glenn Shewmaker—2nd



Clayton Geralds—3rd

# 2010 Presidential Citation

*"I appreciate all that Byron does for AFGC and our industry," stated Miles Kuhn, AFGC President*



Byron Sleugh

AFGC's Presidential Citation award was presented to Dr. Byron Sleugh at this year's annual conference in Springfield, MO on Wednesday June 25<sup>th</sup>. The citation is presented at the president's discretion to an individual that has shown extreme efforts within the organization as well as the forage industry.

Miles Kuhn, AFGC President presented Byron the citation at the awards banquet at the end of the conference. Byron has been involved with AFGC dating back to when he was a student at Iowa State and competed in the emerging scientist

competition. When he was on staff at Western Kentucky University he brought students to the conferences to participate in the forage bowl competition. The last two years Byron, with the sponsorship of Dow AgroSciences, has been involved in organizing a symposium during the annual meeting that has focused on forage management in 2009, and tall fescue in 2010. At this past years conference, Byron was the featured speaker at the industry breakfast.

He is currently serving a term on the board of directors for AFGC. "Byron has a "can do" attitude. I have never had him say no to a

request for help within AFGC. Byron has a passion for forage agriculture. I was on a program with him this past winter where he told a group of producers that his job is not always about selling products. He would like to think of it as selling different management strategies that helps everyone improve their farming operation. That attitude is what sets Byron apart and one of the main reasons he was given the citation" stated Miles.



# Affiliate Council Spotlight--2010 Presidential Award



During the 2010 Affiliate Council Business Meeting, Miles Kuhn, AFGC President awarded the Presidential Award to the Illinois Forage and Grassland Council.

Mr. Kuhn recognized IFGC for several outstanding activities conducted throughout the year and based on membership

growth which is a large consideration in making the award. ILGC increased their membership by 85% over the year and hosted several events including a Forage Expo and AG Legislative Days.

Accepting on behalf of IFGC was Matt Burger.



Matt Burger and Miles Kuhn

*To register for the 2010 AFGC Leadership Conference please complete the registration form located at [www.afgc.org](http://www.afgc.org).*

## 2010 Hay Contest Winners

Individuals submit samples in various categories that are evaluated in a lab based on NIRS testing. This year's winners by category are:

**Class I:** Tropical or Semi-Tropical Perennial Grasses – First Place, Paul Arnold, Arkansas; Second Place, Jimmy Jarvis, Arkansas; and Third Place, Jeris Jarvis, Arkansas.

**Class III:** Temperate Perennial Grasses - First Place, Clayton

Gerals, Kentucky; Second Place, Welch Farms, Maryland.

**Class IV:** Temperate Annual Grasses – First Place, Carroll Charpentier, Louisiana.

**Class V:** Grass Legume Mix – First Place, Clay Pierce, Louisiana; Second Place, Clayton Geralds, Kentucky; Third Place, Carroll Charpentier, Louisiana.

**Class VI:** Alfalfa Hay – First

Place, Clayton Geralds, Kentucky; Second Place, Steve Gingerich, Iowa.

**Class VII:** Second and Later Cutting Alfalfa – First Place, Clayton Geralds, Kentucky.

The National Hay Show was sponsored by Litchfield Analytical Services.

## AFGC Leadership Conference—November 9-10, 2010

2010 AFGC Leadership Conference being held November 9-10, 2010. The conference will begin at 12pm on Tuesday and conclude at 12pm on Wednesday.

### *What will you get by attending?*

- Learn how to get more people involved with your affiliate activities.
- Learn how to recruit new people to help with activities.

- Develop new skills that will help improve communication, lead teams, share ideas and be more effective.
- Train new leaders, share knowledge, and grow AFGC through membership and increasing involvement of others.

There is no registration fee to attend

and members of the CGP program can get CEU credit as professional development.

The event will be held at the Best Western Executive Suites in Pickerington, OH. AFGC will cover one hotel room per affiliate council to be organized by the Affiliate Board and AFGC National Office. Contact 800.944.2342 for more details!

## 2010 Medallion Award



Dr. Richard Leep

Rich Leep has provided outstanding research and educational service to the Michigan Forage Industry and to the producers of this State for over 30 years. Some of the most significant impact that he has had includes: teaching undergraduate forage classes at MSU and guiding graduate students that are now leaders in the forage industry; conducting research on forage varieties like roundup ready alfalfa, falcata alfalfa, grazing alfalfa, perennial ryegrass, teff grass, birdsfoot trefoil, Kura clover, turnips, rape and many more; conducting

alfalfa varietal trials and forage grass varietal trials at the Kellogg Biological Station, East Lansing, Bad Axe, Lake City and Chatham MSU Experiment Stations to name a few helping Michigan producers select the highest yielding, most disease resistant varieties to seed, serving as a mentor for twenty years to the Michigan Forage Council; serving as a Co-Chair to the MSU Extension Forage Team that has carried out a multitude of forage educational programs under his leadership including Michigan Grazing

Conferences, Alfalfa Technology Conferences, various state-wide forage educational workshops and programs, hundreds of pasture walks and hosting the American Forage and Grasslands Council International Conference in Grand Rapids in 2009. Rich relates well with farmers across the State as he started his career as an agricultural agent in Gratiot County, became a forage researcher at the Chatham Experiment Station in the Upper Peninsula, and then became the State Extension Forage Specialist based in East Lansing.

## Distinguished Grasslander Award



John Rodgers

John Rodgers, now a retired dairy farmer, is recognized locally and nationally as an outstanding breeder of prize winning Ayrshire dairy cows along with his innovative pasture program. John is a charter member of PFGC and continues to be an active member and strong voice in our Council. Over the past 17 years he has also received

international recognition for his contributions with the Farmer to Farmer program in Kazakhstan working with dairymen and others to improve their forage and grassland programs along with dairy herd improvement. John and his wife Gayle have 5 grown children, 3 boys and one 2 girls. Daughter Gay had her own herd of Ayrshires

and was active both in PFGC and AFGC. In 1994 Gay was one of the top Forage Spokespersons at AFGC's 50th anniversary conference.

## Distinguished Grasslander Award



Dr. Fred Martz

Fred Martz was born May 24, 1935 in Columbia City, IN and grew up on a dairy farm. He received a B.S. degree in Voc. Agri. (57), M.S. (59) and Ph.D. (61) in Dairy Science, at Purdue University. He joined the University of Missouri, Dairy Husbandry Dept. in 1961 and served as Department Chair from 1978 to 1982. He was Visiting Professor at Cornell University (71-72) where he studied with Dr.

Peter VanSoest. Dr. Martz served as a Research Scientist with USDA-ARS from 1982-90 and studied the absorption of minerals from forages by dairy cows. In 1990, Dr. Martz became the Superintendent of MU's Forage Systems Research Center, and served in that capacity until 1997. Over the last 20 years, his interests have focused on pasture finishing of beef cattle and sustainable agriculture. He

currently operates a grazing farm near Columbia, Missouri with his son, where they direct market pasture finished beef and lamb. He has used his own farm numerous times to demonstrate the value of grazing to students and others. Dr. Martz has been active in church, Kiwanis, and scientific societies. He and his wife, Donna, have five children, and reside on the farm near Columbia.

# Distinguished Grasslander Award



**David C.  
Hileman**

David Hileman, Tyrone, PA grew his small farm in 1959 into a 700 acre, 450 Registered Holstein cow farm operation. His ability to raise quality forages and his management produced a rolling herd average of 26,500 pounds of milk, one of the highest herd averages in the U.S. He

successfully applied an innovative, progressive business philosophy balanced by a conservative financial approach. He was an adaptor of new technology, including one of the first to use no-till planting of corn and forages. As PFGC board member and president, he influenced dairymen to adopt new technology in efficient and profitable practices. David is known by his calm leadership and creative negotiation in the US and internationally, leading the dairy industry from the barn and the boardroom. He traveled to Netherlands with Genex leading discussions with Dutch co-ops, promoted the dairy industry in Latvia, Poland, France and Hungary and a joint venture in India. The "World Dairy Expo 2009 Dairyman of the

Year" had a voice in state policy decisions and helped to develop the "Professional Dairy Managers of Pennsylvania (PDMP)" and was invited to serve on the "Dairy Task Force" by the Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture. Besides serving on many agricultural committees, David and wife Janet have created a foundation to award scholarships to local youth. Since selling his farm, he works with Penn State and Dairy Alliance team to organize and facilitate dairy producer discussion groups to help other farmers succeed.

*Nominations  
are now being  
accepted for  
2011. Visit  
[www.afgc.org](http://www.afgc.org)  
for more  
information.*

## 2010 Merit Award Recipients

The *Merit Award* is presented to individuals who have made superior contributions in some phase of forage and grassland agriculture. Recipients have earned recognition among their colleagues for work and productivity in forage and grassland agriculture in research, teaching, Extension, production or industrial development.

### 2010 Recipients:

**Betsy Dierberger, Ph.D.**  
East Lansing, MI



**Kenneth P. Coffey, Ph.D.**  
Fayetteville, AR



**Paul Beck, Ph.D.**  
Hope, AR



**Glenn E. Shewmaker, Ph.D.**  
Twin Falls, ID



**João M.B. Vendramini**  
Ona, FL



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Forage Genetics/America's  
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Sharp Brothers Seed Co.  
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W-L Research

farm" demonstration on a cow herd on the University's Livestock and Forestry Research Station (LFRS) near Batesville. This allowed Animal Science Extension specialists to implement the same practices in a controlled setting and provided a teaching herd for agents and producers.

Results were very positive and over 80 demonstrations are in currently in progress across the state. In 2009, savings from stockpiling fescue and stockpiled bermudagrass averaged \$54 and \$42 per animal unit, respectively. The greatest savings documented was \$83.50/AU which came from a farm that stockpiled fescue/white clover and did not need to apply N fertilizer. Savings from using winter annuals averaged \$62 per animal unit. The hay storage demonstration showed the importance of proper hay storage. Dry matter losses for barn stored hay ranged from 8-13%, but losses for hay stored outside and unprotected ranged from 20-32%. The three "whole farm" demonstrations recorded grazing seasons over 300 days for the 2009/10 season. Two farms fed hay 53 and 55 days and the third fed hay for only 15 days. Results for the research station herd were similar with a grazing season of 347 days the first year (08-09) and 311 days the second year (09-10).

A 300 Day Grazing Season requires a seasonal approach to forage production and management. Plans are made at least one season ahead to allow options in case of unexpected growing conditions. Plans for spring pasture are made

in fall and winter; plans for summer are made in winter and spring; and so on. Grazing and other management practices are adjusted based on growing conditions in order to provide forage needed to support the herd's nutritional needs. It is very important for producers to understand that they don't have to totally renovate their pastures and plant all new forages to achieve a longer grazing season. Many of them already have the forage base for building a 300 day grazing season. What is required is a change in management and way of thinking. The main point is to determine if forage species exist for grazing during each season then adjust grazing and fertilizer management to help ensure those forages grow when needed. The three whole farm projects have a simple forage base - mainly tall fescue, some bermudagrass, and some clover or lespedeza. On the LFRS, the forage base was bermudagrass and tall fescue. We overseeded clover and plan to add more to reduce N fertilizer costs and fescue toxicity. A controlled calving and breeding season makes forage planning much easier to match nutritional needs of the herd. The LFRS herd is a fall-calving herd and calves are backgrounded after weaning in spring. High quality pastures are needed for lactating cows in fall and growing calves in late spring and summer. The first year, the basic seasonal strategy began by grazing fescue in the spring, bermudagrass in summer and

early fall, then stockpiled fescue for winter. Red clover was overseeded in one fescue pasture to be grazed in fall by the cows just prior to breeding and again in spring and summer by the weaned calves. In 2010, the weaned calves gained 1.8 lbs/day for the first 28 days after weaning without supplementation. By planning a grazing season in advance, plenty of high quality forage was available at weaning resulting in over 70 lbs extra gain adding nearly \$100 in value per head. Another goal for the LFRS project was to buy any hay needed for winter and avoid having to harvest hay from the pastures. Fertilization was matched to the seasonal needs of the cowherd so only a portion of either the fescue or bermudagrass received fertilizer to avoid producing excess forage that could not be grazed effectively. Stockpiling fescue for winter was a critical practice and greatly extended the grazing season. Financial records show that improvements in forage and cattle management have significantly increased the profitability of the project. For those interested in the 300 Day Grazing Program, the demonstration protocols and more information are listed on the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension website at [http://www.aragriculture.org/forage\\_pasture/grazing\\_program/default.htm](http://www.aragriculture.org/forage_pasture/grazing_program/default.htm).

Professor – Extension Forages; Animal Science Program Associate; Animal Science Associate Dept. Head/Beef Specialist; Associate Professor – Beef Genetics; Associate Professor – Beef Nutrition; Associate Professor – Livestock.



**Fence Line Weaning**

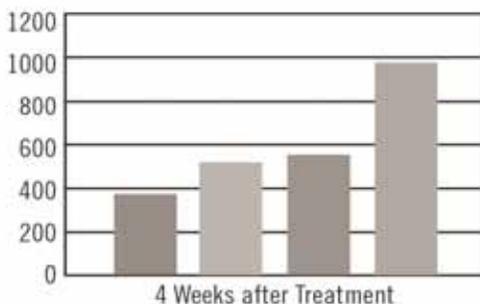


## Advancing Management of Grass Based Pastures



### Effect of *RyzUp SmartGrass* on Dry Matter

Michigan State University - Oct. 29, 2008



■ Untreated ■ 40lb N/acre ■ *RyzUp SG* ■ *RyzUp SG + N*

### NEW - For Organic and Conventional Pastures

*RyzUp SmartGrass*™ is a naturally occurring plant growth regulator that promotes growth, preserves quality and improves pasture performance

- Increases early and late season dry matter production without decreasing quality
- Shortens rotational periods during cool weather conditions
- Reduces supplemental feeding costs
- For use in all grass pasture-based systems, including dairy, beef, equine, sheep and goat operations

Fall and spring are crucial periods for balancing pasture growth and providing quality feed for grazing animals. *RyzUp SmartGrass* applied to grass-based pastures during late fall and early spring months will stimulate pasture growth and increase dry matter per acre with no loss of feed quality.

*RyzUp SmartGrass* provides accelerated growth for up to 3 to 4 weeks, provided adequate soil moisture and nutrition is available. Visual response occurs within 7 days following treatment.

For more information on *RyzUp SmartGrass* contact [www.valent.com](http://www.valent.com)



Start grazing earlier. Keep grazing longer.

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