



FORAGE BITS

Winter 2018

Publication of the Maryland-Delaware Forage Council, Inc.

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President's Column

Are You a Forage Council Supporter?

As I write this, the winter season is upon us – we have had our first snowfall of the season. Thanksgiving Day the mower came off my farm tractor and the blade is now on for plowing snow.

Winter is the time for many educational conferences and meetings, including the regional Hay and Pasture Conferences co-sponsored by MDFC, University of Maryland Extension and University of Delaware Cooperative Extension. I trust that you are planning to attend one of the conferences. More on that later.

First let me share a serious concern. From a Forage Council organizational standpoint, we have a problem. The Maryland-Delaware Forage Council is struggling to exist due to dwindling memberships and lack of people willing to serve on the board of directors and fill leadership positions.

Membership in MDFC dropped to 31 this year. At one time, the membership exceeded well over 100. Can we continue to be a viable organization and co-sponsor educational meetings such as the January series of Hay and Pasture Conferences and the March Maryland Cattle Industry Convention & Hay and Pasture Conference with only 31 members? Probably not.

Do we fold up and dissolve MDFC? The board of directors is not ready to do that just yet. The Council is key in coordinating the programs for the series of conferences in January as well as the Cattle Industry & Hay and Pasture Conference. Without the involvement and coordination of MDFC, these conferences may well go by the wayside, as have a number of other conferences and meetings in recent years.

Many people who attend the conferences take advantage of the educational information presented but fail to support the primary coordinator/sponsor of the event. Last January nearly 300 people attended the three conferences, but only 31 supported MDFC with membership dues. Without additional support (increased membership), MDFC may cease to exist and likewise the conferences.

I hope that you will show your support of MDFC by renewing your membership for 2018. If you are not a member, consider becoming a member and support the council's programs and efforts.

Membership in MDFC qualifies you to receive a subscription to Progressive Forage magazine, the official publication for the American Forage and Grassland Council published 11 times per year. Otherwise, you need to grow 100 acres of hay, silage or pasture to qualify for a subscription. Progressive Forage magazine alone is worth the \$25 annual membership dues for MDFC.

So I would encourage you to renew your membership. Bring your checkbook and membership renewal form along with you to one of the conferences. **A special membership offer will be available at the conferences so come prepared to take advantage of the offer.**

That being said, time for the series of Hay and Pasture Conferences will soon be upon us – January 9, 10 and 11. These conferences will focus on soil health along with hay and pasture management strategies for higher yields and improved utilization. Featured speaker will be Doug Peterson, rancher and USDA NRCS Regional Soil Health Specialist for Missouri and Iowa. In one presentation, he will discuss **soil health**, how it affects virtually all natural resource processes, and what type of management it will take to effectively improve soil health. In Peterson's words, "It's important to help people recognize and understand how improving soil health can help their natural

resources and profitability.” He will show how forages can be used to improve soil health.

Peterson grew up on a crop and livestock farm in northern Missouri and operates a cow/calf and contract grazing operation with his father.

Currently they run about 500 cows. They utilize management-intensive grazing and holistic high density grazing to improve soil health, eliminate the need for most purchased fertilizer and limit hay needs to about one bale per cow per winter. In a second presentation he will discuss healing the land with high density grazing, often times referred to as mob grazing.

Other topics on the programs include herbicide resistant weeds in pasture and hay, metabolic disorders associated with pastures, tips for maintaining forage equipment for top performance, effects of fertilization on forage quality, timing and intensity of harvest relative to plant health, measuring and managing pasture yield and nutritional quality and invasive annual grasses.

Some of the topics vary from location to location. Detailed agendas and registration information are included elsewhere in this newsletter.

Reserve the dates on your calendar. The Delmarva conference will be held January 9 at the Delaware State Fairgrounds in Harrington, the Southern Maryland conference January 10 at the Baden Volunteer Fire Department, Brandywine, MD, and Tri-State conference January 11 at Garrett College Career Technology Training Center, Accident, MD.

I hope to see you at one of these conferences and be sure to come prepared to renew your membership or become a member if you are not currently a member.

Les Vough, President
vough@umd.edu 240-678-0274



Adjust Feeding Strategies When Temps Drop Hay and Forage Grower; Forage Flash

When the bite of winter takes hold, forage intake can rise by 30 percent. Beef animals use most of this additional intake to meet the higher maintenance requirement imposed by colder temperatures, according to Kim Mullenix, Auburn University’s extension beef specialist.

“Cattle with a full rumen generate heat and energy that can help the animal achieve a more desirable body temperature,” Mullenix says. “But forage quality plays an important role. Depending on the quality of the forage and the magnitude of the cold, hay alone may or may not meet the animal’s higher energy requirement,” she adds.

Though forage consumption rises during cold weather, feeding only low-quality forage that is less than 52 percent total digestible nutrients (TDN) will not meet the cow’s energy requirements. Mullenix notes that as animals consume larger amounts of low-quality hay, compaction of the digestive tract can occur.

“If low-quality hay is the only source available, it is important to provide a fiber-based energy supplement such as soyhulls, corn gluten feed, and whole cottonseed to help address nutrient deficiencies,” Mullenix said.

The best approach to meet the higher energy needs is to provide free-choice, moderate to good-quality hay that is over 52 percent TDN. Mullenix also suggests boosting any energy supplement by 20 to 30 percent during cold, wet weather.

As an additional suggestion, Mullenix says to provide feed in late afternoon or early evening. “Heat production by the animal occurs four to six hours after consumption. Therefore, provide feed before temperatures reach their lowest point for the day,” she says.

Limit-grazing

The growth of fall-planted, winter-annual cereals slows as temperatures drop. Mullenix says livestock producers must remember to manage this forage resource for the long haul.

“Grazing winter-annual forages when growth is tempered by cold can easily lead to overgrazing,” Mullenix says. “If this occurs, growth will be delayed once warmer temperatures return. Further, stand life may be compromised,” she adds.

Once forage growth ceases, remove cattle from winter-annual pastures until warmer temperatures return. At that point, Mullenix suggests limit-grazing livestock. This involves moving animals onto high-quality, cool-season pasture for a short period of time (three to four hours), then moving them back to a drylot and providing access to hay or stockpiled perennial forage.

According to the Auburn beef specialist, limit grazing accomplishes two things. It conserves hay inventories and also may improve the digestibility of dry hay by improving the rumen fermentation environment.

Limit-feeding hay

Some beef producers choose to stretch hay supplies by limiting the time animals have access to the feeder or reducing the amount of hay that is actually fed.

“Limit-feeding hay is not a recommended practice during extreme weather conditions,” Mullenix warns. “Animals need free-choice access to hay during periods of environmental stress. Once temperatures moderate, limit-feeding hay may be an option when using mid- to high-quality forage. It’s not a beneficial practice if low-quality forage is being offered to cows,” she adds.

As we enter the dog days of winter, feeding strategies won’t be the same for every farm or ranch; however, it’s likely that ration adjustments will need to be made on most operations. What those adjustments will be hinge largely on the quality of forage being offered.



Maximizing Success with Frost Seedings of Clover

*Dr. Jimmy Henning, Adapted from Grazing News.
www2.ca.uky.edu/grazer*

Literally thousands of acres of Kentucky pasture and hay fields are overseeded with clover, much of it frost-seeded in late winter. Yet this is one of the few times where crops are seeded where we halfway expect not to get a stand. You would not accept this for corn or soybeans. Here are a few tips to ensure you have the best chance of getting clover established from a frost-seeding.

1) Address soil fertility needs. Get a current soil test, and apply the needed nutrients. Clovers need soil that is pH 6.5 to 7 and medium or better in P and K. Do not apply additional N except for that supplied from diammonium phosphate (DAP) if used to supply the needed P. But get the soil test; anything else is just a guess.

2) Select a good variety. Choose an improved variety with known performance and genetics. Choosing a better red clover variety can mean as much as three tons of additional hay and longer stand life. Spread enough seed. UK recommends 6 to 8 pounds of red and 1 to 2 pounds of white/ladino clover per acre. Apply higher rates if using only one clover type. Applying the minimum (6 lb. red and 1 lb. white) will put over 50 seeds per square foot on the field (37 red, 18 white).

3) Make sure seed lands on bare soil. Excess grass or thatch must be grazed and/or disturbed until there is bare ground showing prior to overseeding. The biggest cause of seeding failure with frost seedings is too much ground cover. Judicious cattle traffic or dragging with a chain harrow can accomplish this.

4) Get good seed-soil contact. With frost seeding, we depend on the rain and snow or freeze-thaw action of the soil surface to work the clover seed into the top ¼ inch of soil. A corrugated roller can also be used soon after seeding to ensure good soil contact.

5) Control competition next spring. Do not apply additional N on overseeded fields next spring, and be prepared to do some timely mowing if grass or spring weeds get up above the clover. Clover is an aggressive seeding but will establish faster and thicker if grass and weed competition is controlled.

Clover can be reliably established into existing grass pastures with a little attention to detail. Soil fertility, variety, seeding rate, seed placement and competition control are the major keys to success.

Delmarva Hay and Pasture Conference
Delaware State Fairgrounds
Harrington, DE
January 9, 2018

9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. Welcome and Housekeeping Details

Dan Severson, University of Delaware Extension Agriculture Agent

9:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. Herbicide Resistant Weeds in Pasture and Hay

Dr. Mark VanGessel, Extension Weed Science Specialist, University of Delaware
Quintin Johnson, Extension Weed Associate, University of Delaware

9:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. Metabolic Disorders and Pathogens Related to Forages

Jeff Semler, Extension Educator, AGNR UME – Washington County

10:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. Break

10:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. Cattle's Impact on Soil Health -- Degrading or Beneficial?

Doug Peterson, Missouri rancher and Iowa & Missouri Regional Soil Health Specialist, Soil Health Division, USDA-NRCS, Des Moines, IA

11:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Words from the Maryland Delaware Forage Council

Les Vough, President MDFC and Forage Crops Extension Specialist Emeritus, University of Maryland

12:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Lunch

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Healing the Land with High Density Grazing

Doug Peterson Missouri rancher and Iowa & Missouri Regional Soil Health Specialist, Soil Health Division, USDA-NRCS, Des Moines, IA

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Nutrients and Forage Quality

Dr. Jarrod Miller, Agronomist, University of Delaware

Southern Maryland Hay & Pasture Conference

Wednesday, January 10, 2018
Baden Volunteer Fire Department
Brandywine, MD

Program Agenda

- 8:30 a.m. **Registration, refreshments, visit exhibits**
- 8:50 a.m. **Moderator Welcome**
Moderator: Ben Beale, Senior Agent, University of Maryland Extension St. Mary's Co.
- 9:00 a.m. **Cattle's Impact on Soil Health -- Degrading or Beneficial?**
Presenter: Doug Peterson, Missouri Rancher and Iowa & Missouri Regional Soil Health Specialist, Soil Health Division, USDA-NRCS, Des Moines, IA
- 10:00 a.m. **Break**
- 10:15 a.m. **Metabolic Disorders and Pathogens Related to Forages**
Presenter: Jeff Semler, Extension Educator, AGNR UME – Washington County
- 11:00 a.m. **Healing the Land with High Density Grazing**
Presenter: Doug Peterson,

USDA-NRCS
- 12:00 p.m. **Lunch**
- 12:45 p.m. **Greetings from the American Forage and Grassland Council**
Presenter: Les Vough, President of MDFC and Forage Crops Extension Specialist Emeritus, University of Maryland
- 1:00 p.m. **Tips for Maintaining your Forage Equipment for Top Performance**
Presenter: Sam Esch, Esch Hay Equipment, Gordonville, Pennsylvania
- 2:00 p.m. **Herbicides for Hay and Pasture Use in the Mid-Atlantic Region**
Presenter: Ben Beale, Extension Agent-St. Mary's Dave Myers,
Extension Agent-Anne Arundel
- 2:45 p.m. **Pesticide Recertification and Nutrient Voucher Required Topics**
Southern Maryland Ag Agent Team, University of Maryland

Extension
- 4:00 p . m . **Adjourn**

Registration

Registration fee for the Southern Maryland conference will be \$15 per person by January 5th and \$20 after the 5th. Checks should be made payable to University of Maryland and sent to Hay & Pasture Conference, University of Maryland Extension, PO Box 663, Leonardtown, MD 20650 (phone: 301-475-4484).

Attendance at this program will also fulfill the requirements for Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification and Nutrient Management Voucher Training.

If you need special assistance to participate in the Crops Dinner, please contact Ben Beale, University of Maryland Extension, (301) 475-4484, by January 4, 2018.

University of Maryland Extension programs are open to all citizens and will not discriminate against anyone because of race, age, sex, color, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, religion, ancestry, or national origin, marital status, genetic information, or political affiliation, or gender identity and expression.

In case of inclement weather, a message with the status of the meeting will be available at 301-475- 4484.



Southern Maryland Hay & Pasture Conference

Wednesday, January 10, 2018

Baden Volunteer Fire Department
16608 Brandywine Road
Brandywine, Maryland – registration \$15

Name _____ Telephone _____

Attending _____

Address _____

Email Address _____

Tri-State Hay and Pasture Conference

Garrett College CTTC,
116 Industrial Drive, Accident, MD
Thursday, January 11, 2018

- 8:30 **Registration**
- 8:50 **Welcome**
- 9:00 ***Cattle's Impact on Soil Health -- Degrading or Beneficial?***
Presenter: Doug Peterson, Missouri Rancher and Iowa & Missouri Regional Soil Health Specialist, Soil Health Division, USDA-NRCS, Des Moines, IA
- 10:00 ***Timing and Intensity of Harvest Relative to Plant Health***
Presenter: Ed Rayburn, WVU Forage Specialist
- 10:45 Break
- 11:00 ***Healing the Land with High Density Grazing***
Presenter: Doug Peterson, USDA-NRCS
- 12:00 **Lunch**
- 12:45 ***Greetings from the American Forage and Grassland Council***
Presenter: Les Vough, President of MDFC and Forage Crops Extension Specialist Emeritus, University of Maryland
- 1:00 ***Measuring and Managing Pasture Yield and Nutritional Quality***
Presenter: Ed Rayburn, WVU Forage Specialist
- 2:00 ***Weed Control In Forages***
Presenter: Matthew Morris, University of Maryland, Frederick County
- 2:45 ***Invasive Annual Grasses***
Presenter: Bruce Loyd, WVU-Lewis County Extension Agent
- 3:30 ***Pesticide Safety Update***
Presenter: Willie Lantz, University of Maryland Extension, Garrett County
- 4:00 Adjourn

To Register – Call the Garrett County Extension Office at 301-334-6960 or you can register and pay online at <https://tinyurl.com/2018Hay>. If pre-registered by Monday, Jan 8th the cost is \$15 which includes lunch and can be paid at the door. Walk in and registrations after Jan 8th will be \$20.



UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION

Beef Producer's SHORT-COURSE



January 19-20, 2018

University of Maryland, Western
MD Research & Education Center

18330 Keedysville Road, Keedysville, MD 21756

Cost: \$75 which will include all educational materials, meals and breaks.

Registration applications can be downloaded at:
<https://ansc.umd.edu/extension/beef-extension/maryland-beef-producers-short-course>

Topics:

Economics

Genetics & Reproduction

Herd Health

Nutrition

Hay & Pasture Management

Grazing & Facilities

Featuring:

University & Industry experts

Educational resources

Field demonstrations

Hands-on learning

Please contact Matt Morris via e-mail:

mjmorris@umd.edu or
phone: (301) 600-3576

The Maryland Beef Producer's Short-Course

University of Maryland Extension

Application Form

Dear Applicant,

To participate in the Maryland Beef Producer's Short-Course, please submit a completed application and registration fee by January 12, 2018. The registration fee for this two-day Short-Course is \$75. No applications will be accepted after January 12, 2018. All educational materials and resources, meals (dinner January 19th and lunch January 20th) and breaks are included. Participants are responsible for travel and lodging expenses.

Enrollment is limited to 30, and applicants will be notified of their status no later than January 16, 2018. Make checks payable to: Frederick County EAC.

Submit applications and payments to:

Frederick County Extension
Attn. Matt Morris
330 Montevue Lane
Frederick, MD 21702

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Current size of operation:

Herd Number: _____ 0-25 _____ 26- 50 _____ 51- 75 _____ 76-100 _____ 101-200 _____ 201+

Acreage: _____ 1-9 _____ 10-49 _____ 50-179 _____ 180-499 _____ 500-999 _____ 1000+

Attendance at both days is very important. Participants must attend both days to receive a Certificate of Completion. Do you have conflicts that will prevent you from attending any of the sessions?

____ No

____ Yes (please explain)

Please tell us about yourself, why you would like to participate in the Maryland Beef Producer Short-Course, and how you expect to benefit from this program. Complete this section thoughtfully, because participant selection will be based on your response. Please use the back of this form for additional space.



*An American Forage and Grassland
Council Affiliate*

December 20, 2017

Dear Maryland-Delaware Forage Council Member:

It is time once again to renew your membership in the Maryland-Delaware Forage Council (MDFC) and its parent organization, the American Forage and Grassland Council (AFGC). Now more than ever, the role of forages and grasslands must be promoted. MDFC was organized in 1983 to serve as a forum for forages and grasslands in Maryland and Delaware and to serve as the integrator of the numerous businesses, industries and service agencies associated with forage production, evaluation, marketing and use. The council seeks to coordinate the efforts of various groups and organizations with forage interests to increase the effectiveness of progress on behalf of an improved forage industry.

With your support, MDFC can accomplish much toward a better forage industry. It is a big job and we need your help; first by renewing your membership and second, by becoming involved in the council's programs. With your input, MDFC can serve an even more active role in support of the forage industry.

Your MDFC membership renewal notice is enclosed. As a result of the membership dues increase by AFGC in 2013, the MDFC board of directors voted to increase membership dues to \$25. This amount includes membership in both MDFC (\$15) and AFGC (\$10), a real bargain since an individual membership in AFGC alone is \$30.

Membership in MDFC qualifies you to receive a subscription to Progressive Forage magazine, the official publication for the American Forage and Grassland Council published 11 times per year. Progressive Forage magazine alone is worth the \$25 annual membership dues for MDFC.

A major effort of the MDFC is sponsoring the series of Hay and Pasture Conferences held in Delaware. Southern MD and Western MD. The 2018 conferences will be held January 9, 10 and 11. These conferences will focus on soil health along with hay and pasture management strategies for higher yields and improved utilization.

So I would encourage you to renew your membership. Bring your checkbook and membership renewal form along with you to one of the conferences. A special membership offer will be available at the conferences so come prepared to take advantage of the offer.

You should with your membership be receiving the Progressive Forage Grower magazine once a month. If you are not, please make note of that on your invoice so that we can make sure you receive it in the future.

Sincerely,

Les

Les Vough, President



An American Forage and Grassland Council Affiliate

INVOICE

Address Correction:

Telephone: _____

FAX: _____

E-mail: _____

Description	<i>Amount</i>
2018 Membership Dues: January 1-December 31, 2018	\$25.00
Total Amount Due	\$25.00

Please remit by January 31, 2018

Make checks payable to: Maryland-Delaware Forage Council

Remit to: Kenneth Stonesifer, 141 Hilltop Dr., Chestertown, MD 21620

Please Return This Section



An American Forage and Grassland Council Affiliate

INVOICE

Description	<i>Amount</i>
2018 Membership Dues: January 1-December 31, 2018	\$25.00
Total Amount Due	\$25.00

Please remit by January 31, 2018

Make checks payable to: Maryland-Delaware Forage Council

Remit to: Kenneth Stonesifer, 141 Hilltop Dr., Chestertown, MD 21620

Your Copy