

Master Grazer- Graze 300 Educational Program
2016 1st Quarter Report
(January 1st - March 31st, 2016)

UK Grazing News Newsletter

- Two issues (January and March) of the *UK Grazing News* were published. These two issues contained new articles to help KY producers improve their grazing practices as the grazing season for 2016 begins. The 4-page January issue contained 3 articles and the 6-page March issue contained 4 articles. Topics included “Four Things to Think About Before the Grazing Season”, “Grazing Methods- Which One is for You?”, “The Value of Coated Seed”, and “Planning Your Grazing System” along with informational articles on the upcoming Advanced KY Grazing School and KY Grazing School.
- Each issue of the newsletter was sent electronically to all 120 UK agriculture and natural resource extension agents who utilize the articles and information in their local programming, newsletters, newspaper articles, and on local extension websites.
- An additional 344 electronic subscribers received the e-version of *UK Grazing News*. Copies of each issue were mailed to an additional 190 households who have requested printed copies because of limited or unavailable email access.

Master Grazer Website and Promotion (www2.ca.uky.edu/grazer)

- New material was added to the UK Master Grazer Website. The home page contains links to current and previous articles found in *UK Grazing News* newsletter, electronic subscription to our newsletter, informational video clips, information regarding participating in upcoming events and programs, reports and accomplishments, links to other useful websites, and important contacts.
- Master Grazer Informational Booths: The Master Grazer Program set up informational booths at several State and Regional conferences in recent months. These included the Kentucky Cattlemen’s Association convention in Owensboro, Kentucky Dairy Partners Meeting in Bowling Green, and the Mid-South Stocker Conference in Cave City. The booth exhibited current projects of the Master Grazer program. Additionally, attendees at each meeting could sign up for future issues of the *UK Grazing News* newsletter and receive printed copies of the most recent newsletters, research publications, or flyers for upcoming events.

“Grazing for Cash” Demonstrations and Associated Educational Programs

- The goal of these demonstrations is to illustrate to producers how to reduce their reliance on stored forages, improve management of forages grazed, and increase the profitability of livestock enterprises. For this 2-year grant cycle, demonstrations included: (1) incorporating winter and spring annual forages, (2) incorporating summer annual forages, (3) use of stockpiled fescue, (4) improving pastures with clover, (5) Minimizing Hay Loss and (6) Managed/Rotational Grazing
- Improving Pastures with Clover-Demonstration
 - A demonstration plot was planted on producer farms in each of Bourbon, Henry, Mason, and Nicholas Counties during the month of March to demonstrate proper establishment techniques for interseeding red clover into pastures using a no-till drill. At each of the 4 locations, 4 treatment strips were applied. These included: (1) grass control- no clover planted, (2) red clover drilled into the standing forage, (3) red clover drilled after forage was mowed and forage residue removed, and (4) red clover drilled after forage was mowed without removing forage residue. Data will be collected from each site regarding forage establishment, yield, and quality. Future field days are planned for local producers interested in implementing this practice on their farms successfully.

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Left: Nicholas County Producer Rich Storm and Master Grazer Coordinator Austin Sexten check the no-till drill settings prior to interseeding clover into the demonstration plot. Right: David McGuire interseeding red clover into his pasture in Henry County.

- Minimizing Hay Loss Demonstration

- Since January 2016, 2 Madison County Farms (Yoder and Reynolds) have been conducting a side-by-side comparison using 2 different hay feeders to evaluate the benefits of different hay feeder designs on minimizing hay losses during feeding. Producers are recording the amount of hay fed through each one as a way to determine hay waste over the feeding period. Data collected will be shared with other producers across the state illustrating one way to extend feed resources.
- At a meeting in January of the Madison County Beef Cattle Association, Master Grazer Coordinator, Austin Sexten, talked about different hay feeding methods and their effects on hay loss and animal performance to the 50 attendees. Those in attendance also got to hear a first-hand account of the benefits of hay-saving feeders from the 2 demonstration-cooperating producers, Mr. Ervin Yoder and Mr. Roger Reynolds.
- Their initial impressions of the hay-saving feeders were all positive and even though the demonstration was not completed Mr. Yoder liked the feeder so much he went out and purchased an additional hay-saving feeder to use.



Left: The traditional hay ring used in the feeding demonstration. Right: The hay saving feeder used in the hay feeding demonstration.

- Managed/Rotational Grazing Demonstration

- In March a demonstration plot illustrating the effects of rotational grazing and pasture fertilization was set up in Madison County. This plot will show the benefits of allowing pastures to

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rest while using rotational grazing compared to continuous grazing. Data from this demonstration plot will be used to show producers how the grazing season can be extended through managed grazing.

- In February, Master Grazer Program Coordinator Austin Sexten gave a presentation to the Harrison County Young Farmer's Association regarding the topic of managed grazing and implementing various grazing methods. Also included in the presentation was information on upcoming Master Grazer events and demonstrations.

Educational Opportunities Planned for 2016

- **Advanced KY Grazing School-** Planned for April 12, 2016 at 5:00 P.M. at the C. Oran Little Research Farm in Versailles, KY. This year this one day event will focus on utilizing alfalfa in a grazing system. Topics to be covered will include: Establishing Alfalfa Stands, Grazing Alfalfa, Using Winter Annuals for Spring Grazing, and Keys to Successful Baleage.
- **KY Grazing School-** 2 day, intensive and hands-on educational program on how to design and implement a grazing system, May 17-18, 2016, Woodford Co Extension Office and C. Oran Little Research Center
- **"Lengthening the Grazing Season" Mini-Grazing Schools-** Currently, we are in the early stages of planning to conduct these programs in a couple of locations in Kentucky.