

Master Grazer- Graze 300 Educational Program 2016 Second Quarter Report (April 1st – June 30th, 2016)

UK Grazing News Newsletter

- The third issue in 2016 of the *UK Grazing News* was published in May. This issue contained new articles written to help KY producers improve their grazing practices as the spring grazing season began. This 4-page issue contained articles on “How far can you extend the grazing season profitably?”, “Cattle management practices when grazing alfalfa”, and highlights from the recent Advanced Grazing School.
- This 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 371 electronic subscribers received the e-version of *UK Grazing News*. Copies of each issue were mailed to an additional 195 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.

“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 or harvested, and increase the profitability of livestock enterprises. For this 2-year grant cycle, demonstrations included: (1) incorporating winter and spring annual forages (completed), (2) incorporating summer annual forages (completed), (3) use of stockpiled fescue (repeated fall 2016 if MG coordinator hired), (4) improving pastures with clover (ongoing), (5) minimizing hay loss (completed) and (6) managed/rotational grazing (ongoing).
- 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.
 - The first cutting has been harvested and in July botanical composition and yields will be determined. Unfortunately, the Mason County site had a stand failure and was removed from the on-going collection of data.
 - On August 9th, a field day highlighting the demonstration is planned for the location in Nicholas County.
- Grazing for Cash Pocket Guide: A notebook developed by the Master Grazer program to record key information regarding a producer’s grazing program was revised and is currently being reprinted.

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KY Advanced Grazing School

- A 4-hour, intensive and hands-on educational program focusing on using alfalfa and winter annuals in a grazing system was held on April 12, 2016 at the University of Kentucky C. Oran Little “Woodford Co” Research Farm.
- Attendees learned about establishing new stands of alfalfa, animal management programs while grazing alfalfa, spring grazing of winter annuals, and keys for successfully harvesting forages as baleage.
- This program was attended by 42 farmers, county agents, and industry personnel. Participants completed a survey regarding how they intend to use this information to improve their grazing operations. Results from this survey will be summarized in the future.



Spring KY Grazing School- 2 day, intensive and hands-on educational program on how to design and implement a rotational grazing system.

- Held May 17-18, 2016 at the Woodford County Extension Office and the C. Oran Little Research Center.
- Attended by 47 farmers, county agents, and industry representatives.
- Participants got experience with temporary fencing and water systems during the grazing school's hands on portion of the program. Beef heifers grazed these plots for 18 hours and the participants were able to see firsthand grazing patterns of these cattle.

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Educational Opportunities Planned for July-December 2016

- **KY Grazing School for University Students-** 2 day, intensive and hands-on educational program for undergraduate students at our sister institutions on the key concepts involved in designing and implementing a grazing system. October 11-12, 2016 at Berea College.
- **“Lengthening the Grazing Season” Mini-Grazing Schools-** Currently, we are in the early stages of planning these programs to be held in Western and Eastern KY.