

Master Grazer- Graze 300 Educational Program 2016 Third Quarter Report (July 1st – September 30th, 2016)

Welcome Master Grazer's New Coordinator, Jacob Brandenburg

On August 22nd, Jacob Brandenburg assumed the duties as the new Master Grazer Coordinator. Jacob is a native of Powell County where he was involved in a variety of agriculture enterprises including horticulture, crop production, and beef cattle. He graduated from Morehead State University in May with an undergraduate degree in Agronomy. Jacob recently completed a summer internship in the Breathitt County Extension Office. Through his summer internship he showed excellent communication skills, a hard work ethic, and a passion for agriculture that will be strong assets for our Master Grazer team. We look forward to having Jacob as part of our team and his help in delivering the quality educational programs associated with Master Grazer - Graze 300 Program.



UK Grazing News Newsletter

- Two issues (July – issue no. 4 and August- issue no. 5) of the *UK Grazing News* were published during this reporting period. These issues contained articles written to help KY producers improve their grazing practices not only this fall but throughout the grazing season. In the July, 4-page issue, articles included tips associated with stockpiling fescue for late fall/early winter grazing, providing water to cattle using a tire waterer, summer-time management tips, and preventing atypical interstitial pneumonia in cattle associated with grazing perilla mint. The August issue was centered around agronomic practices associated with fall seeding of forages and cost share programs available to help finance improvements for grazing systems.
- These issues of the newsletter were 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 374 electronic subscribers received the e-version of *UK Grazing News*. Copies of each issue were mailed to an additional 205 households who have requested printed copies because of limited or unavailable email access.

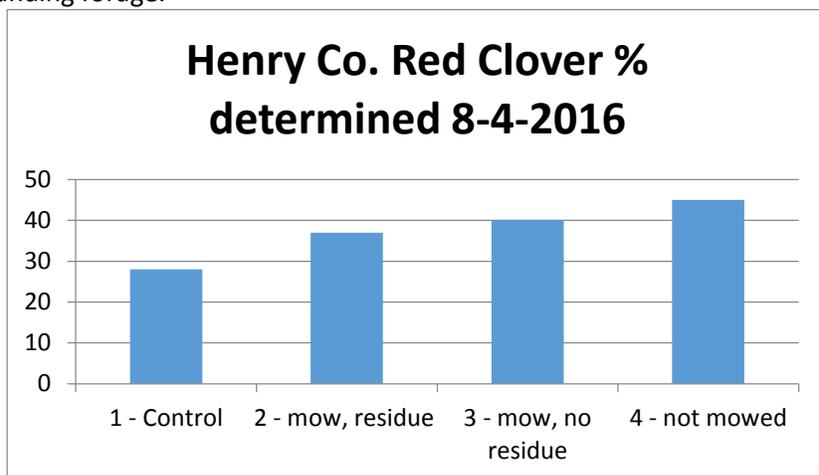
Master Grazer Website and Promotion (www2.ca.uky.edu/grazer)

- 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.
- At the UK BeefBash held in Princeton, Master Grazer program shared a booth with KY Forage and Grassland Council. Copies of our newsletter and brochures of our upcoming educational programs were available for producers to take home with them. Also, approximately 30 additional producers signed up for electronic delivery of our *UK Grazing News* newsletter.
- The Master Grazer Program also had a booth with grazing information at the KY Forage and Grasslands Field Day at Eden Shale.

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“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) improving pastures with clover (on going), (4) minimizing hay loss (completed), and (5) 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 treatments within strips were applied. These included: (1) grass control- no red clover planted, (2) red clover drilled after forage was mowed without removing forage residue, (3) red clover drilled after forage was mowed and forage residue removed, and (4) red clover drilled into the standing forage.
 - The first cutting has been harvested and in August and late September botanical composition and yields were determined.
 - Unfortunately, the Mason and Bourbon County sites had a stand failure and were removed from the on-going collection of data.
 - At this time, results are being summarized. Preliminary results are inconclusive, but do show a substantial amount of volunteer red clover in the control strips and improvements in the amount of red clover present where it was drilled into established grass stands.
- Winter Annual Demonstrations in Anderson Co
 - Winter annual forages can be used to provide forages in the spring and early summer when pastures will be seeded in the fall to perennial grasses or summer seedings of warm season perennials, such as eastern gamma grass.
 - Farm #1 (David Burge): In the early spring, Mr. Burge planted half of a 5-acre field in triticale and the remaining half in spring oats. On June 20th, Mr. Burge harvested as hay 5.5 tons of triticale and an additional 5.5 tons of spring oats. This fall this field will be planted in a permanent grass mixture of orchard grass and red clover. Use of the winter annuals improved forage production on this field as this field would have not contributed forage production during the spring/early summer time frame.
 - Farm #2 (Mike Wilson): Mr. Wilson planted triticale, crimson clover, annual ryegrass, and forage collards in 10 acres and was able to graze 24 cows with calves for 20 days. In late May, this field was sprayed with herbicide before planting with Eastern Gamma Grass.

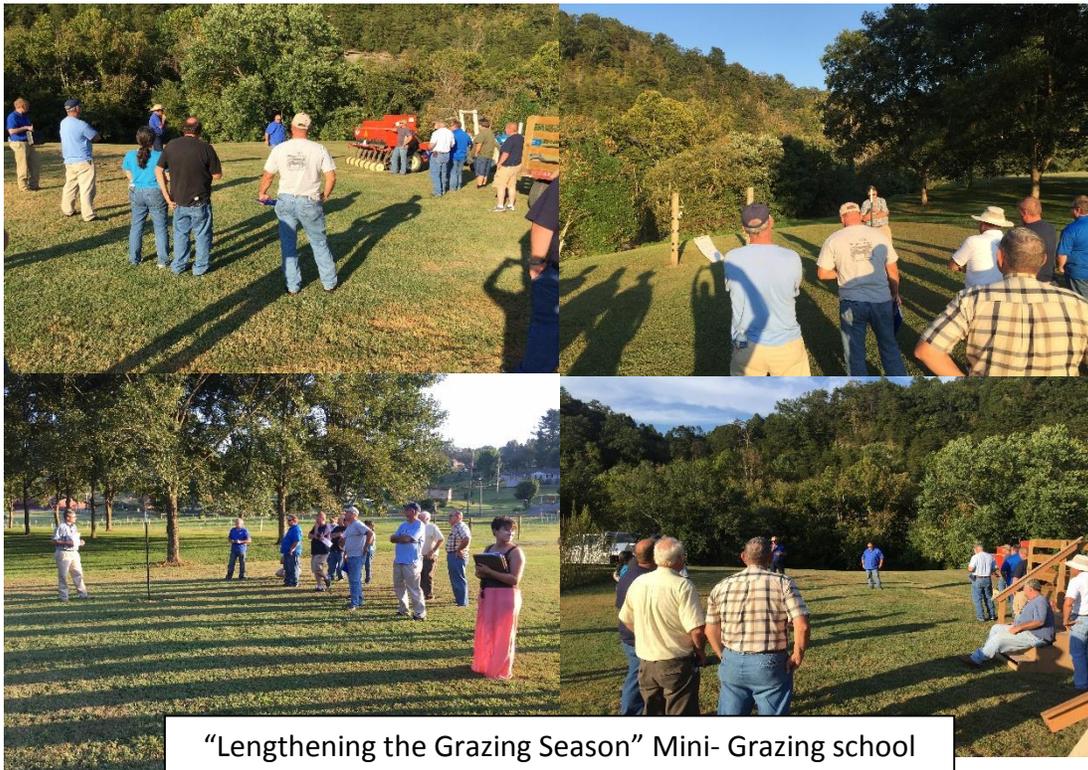


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- Farm #3 (Buddy Smith): In a 12-acre field, Mr. Smith planted triticale and forage turnips. He harvested 95 roll-bales of triticale baleage (approx. 24 tons of dry matter) and grazed 18 beef cow-calf pairs an additional 20 days after the forage turnips grew back. In another 13-acre field, Mr. Smith planted spring oats and was able to harvest 92 roll-bales of baleage (approx. 23 tons of dry matter). In this field, sudangrass forage reappeared as a volunteer crop from the previous year's planting. This volunteer crop allowed him to graze 25 cow-calf pairs for an additional 10 days. This fall, this field was seeded to a novel endophyte fescue, Texamo Max Q II.

Lengthening the Grazing Season- Mini Grazing Schools

- Eastern KY Program:
 - A 4-hour, intensive and hands-on educational program focusing on using alfalfa and winter annuals in a grazing system was held on September 15, 2016 on the University of Kentucky Robinson Center for Appalachian Resource Sustainability Farm.
 - Attendees learned about establishing temporary and permanent fencing, selecting forage varieties for use in their grazing systems, and how to calibrate a no-till drill.
 - This program was attended by 20 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 are currently being summarized.



“Lengthening the Grazing Season” Mini- Grazing school held at the UK Robinson Center, September 15th, 2016

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- Cumberland/Clinton Co Field Day: This field day, attended by 70 producers, centered around the use of winter annuals in forage programs and the benefits of testing hay and balancing diets to improve performance.
- Upcoming Mini-Grazing Schools:
 - Eastern KY (Sebastian Farm, Jackson KY, October 4th)- On-farm discussion will center around fall pasture management and proper design of handling facilities.
 - Western KY (UK Research and Education Center at Princeton, November 10th): This field day will center around grazing cover crops. Demonstrations are currently being planted for this educational program.

KY Grazing School (held May 20-21, 2016): At the conclusion of the KY Grazing School, participants were asked what forage and animal management practices they intended to change on their operations. Over 50% of the participants indicated that they planned on making changes in specific grazing practices related to forage production, animal management, and increasing use of fencing and additional waterers. Over 80% of the participants planned to increase access to water where water was readily available in each paddock, increase the use of temporary fencing to increase the number of separate paddocks grazed, renovate pastures with legumes, and soil test pasture fields and apply the amount of lime and fertilizer needed. Participants indicated they increased their knowledge base for grazing practices with an average increase in knowledge base from 2.6 to 4.0 on a 5-point scale (5 = High/expert knowledge base, 1= Low to none) as a result of attending this school.

Upcoming Eastern KY University-Berea Grazing School is a 2-day program designed to teach undergraduate students how to design and implement a rotational grazing system, and to introduce them to various methods of extending the grazing season with various forage options. This grazing school will be held on November 1-2, 2016 at Eastern Kentucky University.