



IFGC

Forage Feed

Oct. 2023

Issue #138

Inside this issue:

Soil Fertility for Pastures	1
NW IFGC Hay Auctions	2
AFGC Annual Conference	2
IFGC Membership Form	2
Support IFGC Corporate Members	3-4

Soil Fertility for Pastures

There are many ways to determine forage and soil health, and soil fertility is a great tool in our management kit. Collecting information from a soil test, yield, and general observations can put you on the right track to productive fields. Proper fertility is a key factor for healthy productive pastures and hay fields. Every good fertility management plan should start with a soil test, it is difficult to diagnose problems or anticipate a deficiency without establishing a clear baseline. A soil test offers a place to begin, and regular testing will allow you to note changes over time. Soil samples should be taken anytime from 2 to 6 months before you plan to apply amendments to allow time for planning, ordering inputs, and making any other changes.



Key Nutrients

Nitrogen is usually the most limiting nutrient for grass pastures. Because of its mobility in the soil, nitrogen should be applied annually in some form. Forages respond to nitrogen when applied during cool temperatures and adequate soil moisture, spring application sees the greatest response followed by a late summer application. Nitrogen applied in mid-summer yields the poorest response. Keep in mind that large applications of nitrogen will require careful management and may need to be applied in split applications. Legumes in pasture mixes can provide additional nitrogen to the system. Nitrogen applications should be limited in pastures with greater than 40% legumes to avoid overcrowding by grasses.

Phosphorus and potassium are key to legume success in pastures. Both can be applied during spring or fall to established fields. A good liming program will result in a good phosphorus program. The University of Kentucky's [AGR-1](https://forages.ca.uky.edu/soils_fertility) offers lime and nutrient recommendations for pastures and hay fields. Visit https://forages.ca.uky.edu/soils_fertility for more details.

Soil pH affects nutrient availability and interactions with each other. Maintaining the correct pH will ensure overall nutrient availability for your fields. The suggested baseline pH is between 6.0 and 7.0 for grass-mixed pastures and 6.5 to 7.0 for legume pastures. If pH is not corrected, then applied nutrients may not be available to the plants, and deficiency symptoms will persist.

Integrating Crops and Livestock



Farmers, we want to hear from you!

Integration of crops and livestock brings benefits... but also challenges. We need your help to understand what's working and what isn't. Where are you at with integration: interests, experiences, barriers?

Please take the survey!
<https://z.umn.edu/MatchMadeSurvey>



Thanks to Agri-King for printing the Forage Feed newsletter!



Upcoming Events

Nov. 7—KY Fencing School, 1130 Cincinnati Road, Georgetown, KY 7:30 a.m.

Nov. 9—KY Fencing School, KY Soybean Board Ofc., 1000 Hwy 62, West Princeton, KY 7:30 a.m.

Nov. 11—Log Cabin Ranch Pasture Walk, 1384 N. Log Cabin Main, Ina, IL

Dec. 1 & 2—Missouri Livestock Symposium, Kirksville, MO

Jan. 7-10—AFGC Conference, Mobile, AL—www.afgc.org

Soil Fertility Continued

Chapter 8 of the Illinois Agronomy Handbook offers suggested limestone applications based on your soil and pH. The Illinois Agronomy handbook is online at <https://extension.illinois.edu/gloval/agronomy-handbook>.



Take Home Messages for Forage Fertility

Both hay fields and pasture grow forages for livestock feeds, but there are some key differences to consider when building a fertility management plan for each. Hay fields will need yearly fertilizer applications and close monitoring, because of the removal of nutrients. Pastures with livestock can recycle 80% of nutrients consumed by grazing through manure and urine. Fields with short-lived perennials will be periodically renovated with tillage and replanting, while pastures may remain undisturbed for long periods of time. Soil tests should be taken every three to five years in any cropping system. Use soil tests and observations to make informed decisions about fertilizer applications and field renovation. A healthy soil will yield quality forage production and result in the best quality livestock feed.

Katie Lynn Bell

Local Food Systems and Small Farms Educator, University of Illinois Extension

NW IFGC Hay Auctions



The NW Forage and Grasslands Council began their Hay and Straw Auctions October 14th at Boco gas station in Orangeville, Illinois. Auctions are held on 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month.

Commission is 6% for IFGC members or 7% for non-members. Scale tickets and feed analysis are not required but are suggested. Unloading is Saturday before 10:30 am and Friday 1:00-6:00 pm Phil Barker Bull's-Eye 815.821.2544 Don Brown 815.238.8372

AFGC Annual Conference—Mobile, AL



The American Forage and Grassland Council Annual Conference will be held January 7-10 in Mobile, AL at the Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza Hotel. Registration for the conference can be completed online at www.afgc.org. The conference will include workshops on the latest in baleage research, grazing cover crops, and renewable energy. The emerging scientists competitions, forage bowl and forage spokesperson competitions will also be held. For more details visit <https://www.afgc.org/annual-conference/>

Membership

IFGC Memberships can be renewed by going online to the IFGC website to download a membership form. Complete the form and submit it with your dues payment to Illinois Forage and Grassland Council, 216 E. Main Street, Williamsville, IL 62693.

Membership Rates:

\$30 Individual \$50 IFGC & NW IFGC \$200 Corporate \$5 Student

Membership form can be found at: www.illinoisforage.org

2023 IFGC Corporate Members



FOR ALL YOUR FORAGE HARVESTING SUPPLIES
MONROE, WI
800-726-0401



Contact your Local FS Cooperative
 or
 Visit www.fsseeds.com

Mark Seed

Mark Maidak, 815-718-0238
mwmaidak@gmail.com

Corn/Soybeans Alfalfa/Forage Ag Plastics

AgriGold
 Champion
 Cornelius
 Mycogen
 NuTech

Alforex
 La Crosse
 Nexgrow
 Welter
 WL Alfalfas

AgriSeal
 Pritchett
 Sunfilm
 Tytan
 Up North



KITCHEN SEED COMPANY, INC.

WE'LL GROW YOU ONE BETTER!

1149 N. Vine St. | P.O. Box 286 | Arthur, IL 61911

Duane Hopkins
 Corporate General Manager

217-273-6402 cell
 217-543-2031 fax
duane@kitchenseed.com



217-543-3476 office
www.kitchenseed.com



Doug Hanson

dough@proharvestseeds.com
www.proharvestseeds.com **866.807.7015**

DAMBMAN SERVICE, INC.



7070 Shannon Rt.

Milledgeville, IL

61051

sales@dambmanservice.com | 815.493.2764

Premium Pasture & Cover Crop Seed!

- **Cover Species**
 - Turnips, Radish, Rye & More
- **Premium Alfalfa & Clover**
 - Quick Cut, High Digestible & Low Lignin
- **Forage Grasses**
 - Fescue, Brome, Orchard, Timothy & More
- **Summer Annuals**
 - Teff, Sorghum, Sudangrass
- **CRP & Native Mixes**
- **Turf Seed**

MIDWEST
 GRASS & FORAGE



1300 E University Drive
 Macomb, IL 61455
 (309)837-1820
midwestgrass@macomb.com
 Follow us on Facebook!



JOHN DEERE



**SYDENSTRICKER
 NOBBE**

Gregg Zurliene "Billy Bob"
 Forage and Livestock Product Specialist

618-599-2263
billybob@snpartners.com

Dart Hay Service Inc.



Ron Tombaugh
 President
 2075 E IL RT 18
 Streator, IL 61364

Phone (309) 531-4229
 Fax (815) 672-3066
darthay@yahoo.com



Brian Wieland Sales
 Princeville, IL

309-219-4403
brian@saddlebutte.com

Illinois Forage & Grassland Council
216 E. Main St.
Williamsville, IL 62693

www.illinoisforage.org

Forage Feed is published by the Illinois Forage and Grassland Council

Editor:

Emily Hartmann
Mulberry Grove, IL 62262
emily.hartmann@usda.gov

Contributions for future *Forage Feed* issues or requests to receive future issues electronically can be emailed or mailed to the editors.



The mission of the Illinois Forage and Grassland Council is to provide the framework that unites industry, producers, and educational/governmental institutions for the production, marketing, and wise use of forages and grasslands.

2023 IFGC Officers

President **Gregg Zurliene**, Eolia, MO
618.599.2263
greggsurliene@gmail.com

Vice Presidents **Dr. Jennifer Earing**, Normal, IL
309.438.1525
jearin@ilstu.edu

Secretary **Matt Bunger**, Williamsville, IL
217.473.2690
mbbunger@yahoo.com

Treasurer **Doug Gucker**, Cisco, IL
dgucker@illinois.edu

Past President **Doug Hanson**
815.698.2204
dough@proharvestseeds.com

2023 Board of Directors

Producers:

Richard Schrock | Champaign, IL | Richard.schrock@hotmail.com
Ron Tombaugh | Streator, IL | darthay@yahoo.com
Don Brown | Davis, IL | don.brownjr708@gmail.com
Jon Herron | Raleigh, IL | hay@justsayhay.com

Education / Government:

Keely Wilcoxon | Ipava, IL | keely.wilcoxon@usda.gov
Katie Bell | Olney, IL | klbell@illinois.edu
John Bell | Champaign, IL | john.Bell@usda.gov
Travis Meteer | Baylis, IL | wmeteer@gmail.com

Industry:

Joey Stasell | Toluca, IL | jcstase@gmail.com
Steve Berning | Warrenville, IL | Steve@GalushaFarm.com
Alex Titlow | Creston, IL | alex@hueberlle.com

