

Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council

2014 Annual Report

The Burke Family Farms was the site of the 2014 KFGC Field Day on July 17. The field day was a big success with producers, industry representatives, and county agents learning new forage management techniques with over 150 people in attendance.

Every year KFGC co-sponsors with the University of Kentucky two major forage conferences. We hold a board meeting before each event and rotate the conferences around the state. They are always excellent conferences and serve not only to train new producers, but are also important gathering times for our membership. The 15th Kentucky Grazing Conference was held in Bowling Green, KY October 23, 2014. Over 150 people attended this event. The 34st Kentucky Alfalfa Conference was held in Bowling Green, KY at the Western Kentucky Ag Expo Center on February 20, 2014 with over 200 producers from Kentucky and surrounding states attending the event. Kentucky Alfalfa Award winners were; Warren Thompson Industry Award, Don Eckhoff, Charlie Schnitzler Producer Award, Christopher Geraldts and the Garry Lacefield Public Service Award, Elmer Gray.

KFGC has been a co-sponsor of the KY Grazing Schools for over 20 years. We continue to host these each year. In May 2014 the KFGC/UK grazing school was held in Woodford County, KY at the Extension Office and the UK Animal Research Center with over 40 in attendance. We also hosted four one day grazing schools this year with two in Morgan County in May and August and two in Monroe County in May and September. These one days schools introduced over 100 producers to the concepts and practices of managed grazing. For the third year in a row KFGC hosted an Advanced Grazing School, held this year at the KCA Demonstration farm in Owen County, KY. The grazing schools and other grazing programs are being coordinated through the Master Grazer program. This program has helped encourage producers around the state to focus on grazing management.

Many KFGC Board Members are on the Organizing Committee for the January 11-13, 2015 American Forage and Grassland Conference. We look forward to having a large KY contingent at this meeting in St. Louis. The KFGC website, which is managed by Adam Probst, a KFGC Board member, continues to be updated and is a vital resource for KY's forage producers receiving over 300 hits a day.

Each year, KFGC recognizes four outstanding leaders for their hard work and dedication to KFGC and KY's forage industry. These year's outstanding leaders included: Craig Cohron, Grassroots Award; Clint Hardy, County Public Award; Kevin Laurent, State Public Award; and Scott Flynn, Industry Award.

National Forage Bowl Competition: The University of Kentucky team of Elizabeth Langlois, Meredith Tapp, Ceceilia Purtee and Veronica Bill won the 2014 contest.

National Forage Spokesperson Contest: Myron Ellis, producer from Mercer County, placed second in the Forage spokesperson contest as he gave an excellent presentation regarding his commercial hay operation.

National Young Scientist Competition:
Krista Lea – 3rd (Kentucky)