

Farm News

By: Tom Mills
County Extension Agent
for Agriculture
**Renovating Grass
Fields with Red Clover**

Is it cost effective to seed red clover into pasture and hay land? For years farmers have used the dark of February's moon as a time to overseed clover into fescue. By adding clover through the renovation process, pastures are improved in three ways.

Clover will add nitrogen to the soil and benefit surrounding grass. As much as 180 pounds of nitrogen may be added. With current nitrogen prices this year, clover renovation may be worth as much as 400 pound of Urea or just over \$54 per acre.

The second benefit to adding clover is the improved quality of feed. Clover is a higher protein, more digestible feed that animals prefer over grasses such as fescue and orchard grass. Clover will also grow best during mid-summer when other grass has stopped. Not only will clover spread out the grazing season, clover will also increase the total yield.

The third benefit to adding clover is that fescue pastures infected with the entophyte fungus is diluted. The entophyte fungus has silently lowered cattle production through its detrimental effects during summer months. Adding clover dilutes the amount of forage available and gives animals a choice. Clover, being more abundant and preferred by animals, will then become a larger part of their diet.

Lowering fertilizer cost, increasing yield and improving the quality of feed available to livestock makes clover very cost effective. However, clover varieties vary in

results. Research at the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture has compared the performance of common or uncertified clover with that of better-certified varieties.

The cost of better varieties may be as much as 75 cents more per pound and are well worth the benefits they provide. An additional seed cost of \$8 per acre was worth over 3,500 pounds additional hay over the first 2 years. Stands of the certified varieties were thick and vigorous going into their second winter, while the common varieties were clearly thinning. Certified varieties lasted into the third season increasing their overall yield.

When a field out West is started from foundation seed, the harvested seed can be certified for the first 3 years. In many cases the field will actually be harvested up to 6 years. Years 4, 5, and 6 however, will be marketed as the same common variety but cannot be certified. Why? Plants harvested in later years will have been from reseeding. With mutations and other breeding mishaps, one cannot guarantee seed purity. This is why you see common variety or same name uncertified. U.K. research has found that many common varieties are one-year clover in Kentucky. Farmers spend the same time and equipment cost to seed either variety. When you consider the time invested, the extra cost for certified seed is a bargain. Contact your farm store seven to ten days before you plan to seed so they can have certified seed available.

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Agricultural News

By: Warden Alexander, FSA Director

2001 Burley Tobacco Quota

The Secretary of Agriculture has announced the 2001 national marketing quota for burley tobacco (type 31) is 332 million pounds, of which Kentucky's quota is 164,070 pounds. The 2001 national factor for burley tobacco reflects a 34.4 percent increase from the 2000 crop. The 2001 notice of burley tobacco quota are scheduled to be mailed to producers from the local FSA office on Thursday, February 8th. Sales after January 25th are not included on these notices. Therefore, if you had sales after January 25th you will receive a corrected notice after March 15th when the office receives late sales listings.

Burley Tobacco Leasing of Quotas

April 2nd is the first date producers shall execute a lease for the 2001 quotas. Leasing will end on July 1, 2001.

Quota Referendum

The Secretary of Agriculture has announced national marketing quotas for the 2001 through 2003 crops of burley tobacco (type 31) and called for a referendum by mail ballot during the period February 12 through February 16, 2001, to determine whether marketing quotas will be in effect for this kind of tobacco. The 2001 Burley Tobacco Referendum ballots are scheduled to be counted beginning at 8:00 a.m. Wednesday, February 21st at the Rockcastle County FSA Office. The counting is open to the public.

Marketing Cards

Producers who have sold the current year's crop of tobacco are encouraged to return their marketing card to the FSA as soon as possible. Marketing cards are then compared to sales recorded for accuracy. Failure to return marketing cards promptly could result in producers receiving incorrect information for the 2001 quota, scheduled to be released February 8th.

Crop Insurance

Just a reminder: Producers who wish to purchase Federal Crop Insurance on 2001 crops have until March 15th to do so. We urge you to contact your agent at the earliest to assure protection.

Redesigned Web Site

FSA has announced the introduction of a redesigned FSA web site at www.fsa.usda.gov. The redesign includes user-friendly features and easily accessible online FSA forms.

Producers now receive county loan deficiency payment rates and expanded program information directly from the web site. With new online forms feature, farmers and ranchers can download program and disaster assistance forms when it's most convenient for them.

Farm Changes

Producers who have purchased or sold land need to contact the local FSA office for proper reconstitutions of farms. Farms enrolled with PFC have until the deadline of June 1st to file for reconstitutions of farms. Farms not enrolled with PFC have until the deadline of July 1st. Remember to bring your deed and/or to notify the new owner to do so. Also notify this office of any and/or all address changes. REMEMBER: our records are only as current as producers inform us of.

Designation By Landowner For Farm Reconstitutions

The designation by landowner method is the division of contract acres, allotments and quotas in the manner agreed to by the parent farm owner and purchaser or transferee. This method of division may be used to divide tracts or farms.

The designation by landowner method may be used when any of the following apply:

- Part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred.
- An entire farm is sold to two or more persons.
- Farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons.
- Part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred.
- A tract is sold to two or more persons.
- Tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons.
- Land is subject to a WRP or EWRP easement. The resulting farm with all acreage under a WRP or EWRP easement shall not retain any contract acres, allotments, or quotas. Eligibility requirements in the table below do not have to be met.

The designation by landowner method shall not be used to divide allotments or quotas, if the parent farm is located in two or more counties and the allotments and quotas cannot be transferred from one county

to another by sale, lease or owner.

FSA-155, Request for Farm Reconstitution, shall be signed by all of the following:

- Seller
- Buyers (transferees)
- If applicable, the holder of the deed of trust, lien or mortgage

All of the requirements in this table must be met to use the designation by landowner method.

3 Year Ownership: The land sold or transferred must have been owned for at least three years. COC may waive the 3 year ownership requirement if either of the following apply: COC determines that the sale was not primarily to keep or sell allotments, quotas, or contract acres OR land is sold and will be devoted to nonagricultural, recreational, residential or industrial use. NOTE: Designation by landowner method is not applicable to: burley tobacco quota OR allotments or quotas, if the parent farm is located in two or more counties and the allotments or quotas cannot be transferred from one county to another by sale, lease or owner.

Memorandum of Understanding:

The owner of the parent farm and the purchaser or transferee shall file a signed written memorandum of understanding designating contract acres, allotments, and quotas before either of the following occurs: the farm is reconstituted; that is, COC signs the COC report OR any subsequent transfer of ownership. NOTE: A deed is not a memorandum of understanding.

Land Subject to a Lien, Mortgage or Deed of Trust: If the land is subject to a lien, mortgage, or deed of trust, the holder must agree to the crop designation in writing.

Dates to Remember
• COP (Crop Disaster Program) begins January 18th.

• Quota Referendum: ballot counting February 21st.

• FIC Insurance: from other sources by March 15th.

• Crop Reporting: Small Grains (WHEAT) by May 31st.

• Tobacco Leasing: April 2nd through July 1st.

• Crop Reporting: required for ALL burley tobacco farms by July 1st.

Breakfast Basics

By: Hazel Jackson
County Extension Agent for
Family and Consumer Science



Want an easy way to start your day right? Eat breakfast. Like gas in a car, breakfast foods provide your body with the fuel and nutrients it needs. And there's no better way to start the day than fueled up and ready to go...at school, at work, at whatever you'll do today.

Want to fuel up for good health? Choose your breakfast foods following the Food Guide Pyramid. Here's how:

1. Start at the bottom. Select breakfast foods from the Bread Group. Include cereal, toast or a muffin. Or try paninis, a tortilla or even crackers.
2. Move on up. Include foods from the Fruit and Vegetable Groups. Fruit choices include a banana, grapefruit or 100% fruit juice. Vegetable choices include tomato slices, carrot sticks or a baked potato leftover from dinner.
3. Top it off. Add foods from the Milk Group like yogurt or cheese. Milk for cereal or for drinking is also a good choice.

Limit the foods you eat for breakfast from the Meat Group.

Lunch and supper choices often "account" for the two servings suggested by Food Pyramid.

Here's a muffin recipe that's sure to please.

Ham and Cheese Muffins
2 cups baking mix
2 eggs
2 1/2 cups milk

1 Tablespoon oil
1 teaspoon seasoned salt
1 1/2 cups shredded Cheddar cheese

3/4 cup cubed fully cooked ham

*Preheat oven to 350°F. Coat 12 muffin cups with nonstick vegetable spray.

*Combine baking mix, eggs, milk and oil and season salt in a large bowl.

Mix well.

*Stir in cheese and ham.

*Spoon batter into prepared muffin cups, dividing evenly.

*Bake 25 to 30 minutes, or until golden brown.

*Let cool in pan 2 minutes, then remove from pan and place on a wire rack to cool. Or, serve warm.

*Store in an airtight container for several days in the refrigerator or freeze for longer storage.

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