SERVING CALHOUN, RITCHIE, ROANE, WIRT, AND WOOD COUNTIES

The Little Kanawha Conservation District and You

Volume 3, Issue 1 fall 2016 November 2016

Why Sample Your Hay?

By: John J. Hicks PVCD

Forages should be analyzed whenever there is a need to know forage quality. Analyzing forages enable producers to determine the available of nutritional for their livestock. It's the nutritional values of forages found through testing, that allows producers to determine if there is a need for supplemental feeds or minerals and the amount that will need to be fed.

As animals develop, their nutritional requirements change. These changes in nutrition can be better addressed through knowing the nutritional value of the fed forages. The ultimate goal is to reduce costs for the producer by producing higher quality forages that don't need to be supplemented.

Pasture forages should be samples often enough to get a true picture of its nutritive value. This may be three or four times a year until enough historical data is collected. Hay should be sampled yearly. If the producer would want to match the animals needs to what's being stored, more testing will be needed. It is favorable to sample each cutting of hay as well as different types of hay. When considering how many samples to take consider the stage of forage growth when harvesting; the type of hay; and the intended use for the forage.

There are two packages available to producers and numerous add-ons. The most popular package is the Basic Package, which includes; dry matter, crude protein, lignin, ash, NSC, Relative Feed Value (RFV), Total Digestible Nutrients (TDN), NEM, NEG, NEL, Calcium, Potassium, Magnesium, Phosphorus, and Sulfur. The complete package includes the same as the basic package, but also includes the micronutrients iron, copper, manganese, and zinc.

Presently testing is free of charge through the: Little Kanawha Conservation District for the first full sample. For more information or to schedule an appointment to have forage testing done, contact the: Little Kanawha Conservation District at (304) 422-9088.

Inside this Issue:

Upcoming Meeting:

December 15th 9:00 a.m.
Mountwood State Park

District Farm Winners:

The Little Kanawha Conservation District recognized one or two farms in each of the five district counties: Calhoun, Ritchie, Roane, Wirt and Wood for the improvement and dedication to conservation that each farmer has made. Each farmer received a plaque, outstanding farmer sign and disc of pictures of their farm showing works of improvement to their farm and pictures taken during LKCD supervisor's tour.

Calhoun County: Troxal Metheney

Pictured left to right: Supervisor Norma Collins, Connie and Troxal Metheney

Troxal Metheney is a lifelong resident of Calhoun Co. where he has a cow-calf beef operation. His property consists of 154 acres of pasture and woodland.

He has been a cooperator with the Little Kanawha Conservation District for 14 years, during which time he has requested assistance in developing a conservation plan for his farm from USDA/NRCS and applied BMPs (best management practices) which include: water developments (pond and spring developments, pipelines, and troughs), exclusion fencing, pasture management, brush management, and nutrient management (lime and fertilizer applications according to soil test results), as well as gravel heavy use areas to reduce soil compaction and erosion. He has participated in NRCS programs such as Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), LKCD's Agricultural Enhancement Program (AgEP), and the WV Lime Incentive Program.

Ritchie County: Jean Freeland

Pictured left to right: Supervisor Ivan Banks, Mike Nichols, Jean Freeland, her son Mark and his wife Lisa

Jean Freeland's farm is located in Smithville, West Virginia. Her farm consists of 136.3 acres. She started working with the NRCS and Little Kanawha Conservation District in March of 2012 when she signed up for winter feeding improvements. Since then she has completed several practices and has worked hard on her farm to get it to where it is today.

Jean had started improving her property with constructing division fence, and building a fenced in road that also doubles as an important feature to her rotational grazing. When in the "Lane" cattle can be moved into one of five fields by opening two gates. Her relationship with NRCS and LKCD started off with getting feed pads built and participating in the LKCD's Ag. Enhancement Program for lime, frost seeding, and cleaning out an existing pond. After the pond was dipped out she also built approximately 500' of 4 strand high tensile fence to exclude cattle from the pond. The pond is used for water in an adjacent hay field that is used to extend the grazing season.

Her winter feeding facilities have greatly improved the pastures by removing the livestock during winter months. One of the facilities is designed specifically for 25 cows while the other facility is designed for 20 calves. While working on building construction she also installed gravel heavy use area around the barns to stabilize the area for tractor traffic in the winter and put in 360' of pipeline to get water to the far side of the property and in the far winter feeding barn.

Pictured left to right: Supervisor Ivan Banks, Mark Freeland, Jean Freeland, Matt Freeland, and Supervisor Mike Nichols

Ritchie County: Lenora Williams

Pictured left to right: Supervisor Ivan Banks, Lenora Williams, and Supervisor Mike Nichols

Lenora Williams place is located in Big Springs of Ritchie County, West Virginia. Lenora came into the office to speak with NRCS about a high tunnel in April of 2013. She has worked with NRCS and the Little Kanawha Conservation District.

Her place is truly a diversified operation. She has cattle, chickens, orchards, rhubarb, asparagus, blueberry bushes, and a 24'x 36' high tunnel. She constructed the high tunnel to extend the growing season and allow her to produce more vegetables. She uses drip irrigation in the high tunnel which helps preserves water. Her sources of water for the high tunnel and vegetable growing areas are a well and also water barrels which catch water from the gutters on buildings. Lenora put in a lot of work and sweat to be able to have the place she now enjoys.

Roane County: Vincent Klicka

Conservation Farmer Vincent Klicka Flanked by LKCD Supervisors Sam Sheets and Judy Saunders

Vincent's 340 acre farm is located 1 mile west of Gandeville, West Virginia. Vincent and Mary Ann's house was built in the 1890's. Since moving to the farm in 2005. Vince has done a lot of remolding and additions to the house. The result is a beautiful home with character and style. He has completed several conservation practices on the farm, such as spring developments, pipelines, freeze-proof troughs, tree planting, and rocking of farm roads for erosion control and better access to upland fields.

One of the outstanding things about Vincent's farm is his high- tensile, smooth-wired, electric fence. Every end and corner brace is installed exactly as it should be and every strand on each section has tighteners and tension springs. Vince also has three solar chargers for the fence- one for each strand. Vince says with his system a short on one wire does not take out the whole system.

Vincent has worked with Stacey Robinson, the NRCS Forestry, for the last five years. Vince wanted to do TSI (timber stand improvement) on all his woodland, so Stacey inventoried the stands and marked trees which needed to be removed. Some of the woodland had been high graded in former timber operations- so there were a lot of undesirable species and trees with poor form to be removed. Vincent girdled or cut these trees which allows more room and sunlight for desirable species. He has also constructed fence to exclude livestock from the woodland.

Wirt County: Shonnette Null

Pictured left to right: Shonnette Null, Randy, Supervisors Roseann Adams and Roger Shaver

Shonnette purchased the farm in 2009. It had been vacant for 10 years and was pretty well grown up with brush, just like a typical West Virginia farm would be if abandoned for a few years. After she got control of the farm, she took charge in clearing and removing the brush, repairing the fences, and fixing up the house so she would have a place to live. It took her 14 months to get the farm ready for cattle.

By the spring of 2010 she was able to plow and plant a garden. There were 15 acres of pasture fenced so she purchased a Hereford cow to start her beef herd. She had some of the timber harvested to get income to complete more projects on the farm. Over the next few years she planted an orchard with several fruit trees – apples, pears, plums, and 24 blueberry bushes. Shonnette purchased a used 1972 Massey Ferguson tractor to help maintain the pastures and to use for gathering firewood. She built a chicken coop in which she started a few chicks and now has 22 in her flock. In 2012 her first calves were born but sadly they were twins and she lost them both. But that didn't stop her. The next year she purchased more cattle.

In 2012 Shonnette made a visit to the USDA Farm Service Agency and had her property registered as a farm. That began her relationship with NRCS and LKCD. With their assistance she developed a farm conservation plan and in the fall she signed up for assistance on some conservation projects. In 2013 she developed a spring which supplies one 400 gallon trough near the spring with the overflow piped to another 400 gallon trough near the foot of the hill. She also obtained soil tests and started the path to better pasture quality by applying lime to 21 acres. The soil pH on the samples taken was in the very low range (5.0 and below) and even after applying 3 tons per acre, more lime will need to be applied to get the pH up to the level for better nutrient utilization. Since 2013, Shonnette had a pond constructed and installed 750' of fence to exclude livestock from the pond. With this pond and fence she now has three pasture fields with water in which to rotate the cattle.

Shonnette future plans are to build a barn in which to store hay and to also use as a place to bring cattle when calving or when they need doctoring. Shonnette gets her hay from other farms in the area because she doesn't have any fields suitable for hay production

Wirt County: Phil Sims

Pictured left to right: LKCD supervisors Roseann Adams, Roger Shaver, and outstanding cooperator Phil Sims

Phil Sims farm is located on Garfield Road in Wirt Country, West Virginia. He has participated in many programs such as EQIP, AgEP, and CSP. Phil started working with NRCS and Little Kanawha Conservation District back in 2002. Phil has worked countless hours over many years to improve the production on this farm.

His most recent project is a large high tunnel installed this past summer. Over the years he has constructed farm ponds and installed at least a dozen watering troughs. Some of the troughs are gravity fed from ponds and others are fed from wells. Recently he installed solar panels near a pond located at the lower side of a hilltop pasture and used the electric from the solar panels to power a solar pump to push water to a cistern on the upper side of the pasture. He divided the pasture field and installed watering troughs in each of the new fields. Each of the troughs is fed by water which is gravity fed from the cistern. With this system he has a better rotational grazing system and is also able to decrease the need for cattle to travel down steep areas to water. Some of his watering troughs are installed in hay fields on each side of Right Reedy Creek. This allows him to fence the cattle away from the stream and still use the fields for additional rotational fall and winter grazing.

Phil has constructed two roofed feeding pads with manure storage. This allows him to feed in the winter without causing compaction or erosion due to hauling feed and feeding on wet soils. The manure is spread when the ground is dry and firm on both hay and pasture fields according to nutrient needs. The feed pads are designed to handle 40 head of cattle.

When you drive by this farm it is easy to spot areas where Phil has put rock or old broken-up concrete slabs to prevent stream bank erosion. Without this work, the stream bank erosion would cut into the hay fields or damage fences or the driveway bridge. It is also evident that he works hard to control brush on his pastures. Phil is a farmer who doesn't mind helping other farmers. He puts others before he and his farm much of the time. He has a great lay out and he plans to make it look even better

Wood County: Burl Balderson

Burl's 238 acre livestock farm is located on Rt. 68 south of Lubeck. He has been a cooperator with the LKCD for many years but obtained an EQIP contract from NRCS in 2013 to work on practices needed to solve problems with his winter feeding area. He already had a barn for hay storage, which was also used for calving and doctoring his cattle, but needed a stable area to feed on and a way of storing the manure.

Under the EQIP program, Burl constructed and rocked a road to the new feed pad area, constructed a roofed feed pad with manure storage, and developed a new watering system to get water to the feed pad so cattle could be confined to the pad area.

LKCD supervisor Delmas Carr, NRCS conservationist Andy Bartlett, and Burl Balderson at high point where cistern is

The watering system consists of solar panels and pump at a well head which pumps water 295 feet to a cistern buried on the high point in the field and another 745 feet of gravity pipeline to carry water from cistern to a freeze-proof trough in the feed pad.

The feed pad has a freeze-resistant watering facility and a manure storage area. Because the roads from the feed pad to the crop fields and other pasture areas are steep, the manure stored at the pad is not spread until after the first cutting of hay so roads are dry and soil is firm.

Wood County: Dwight Cochran

Dwight Cochran's 60 acre farm is located on Lee Creek Road off of Rt 68 in southern Wood County. In the past, the farm consisted of 25 acres of hay and 35 acres of woodland, but Dwight is now converting the farm more to woodland and wildlife. This is due to his health and poor hay market and his love for wildlife. In 2012 he came into the NRCS office to discuss converting old hay fields to a stand of hardwood trees. In July of 2014 he signed his contract to get help with tree planting and so far he has planted 600 to 700 trees. He has planted oaks, American chestnuts, and conifers.

The trees are protected by tree tubes supported by plastic pipe. Some of the other hay fields are used for late cut hay which improves habitat for grass nesting birds and provides more bloom for pollinators.

Other fields have been tilled and seeded to wildlife food plots. These fields have soft mass tree species such as crab apple planted around them. Some of the plots have warm season grasses planted and some have annuals. There are a lot of flowering perennials which attract butterflies and other pollinators.

LKCD supervisor Dexter Graham, Mrs. And Mr. Cochran, and supervisor Delmas Carr

Officers for 2016-2017:

Officers for the 2016-2017 year were elected at the June meeting. The new officers will take over their responsibilities on July 1, 2016. They are as follows:

Chairman- *Mike Nichols*
Vice Chairman- *Roger Shaver*
Secretary- *Norma Collins*
Treasurer- *Dexter Graham*

These offices will serve until June 30th, 2017.

The district is represented at the WV Association of Conservation Districts by two district supervisors. The LKCD supervisors elected to serve as directors on this board are Mike Nichols and Roger Shaver. Both will serve until June 2017.

Supervisors are elected by the public. They serve a four year, over lapping term.

We congratulate all these supervisors and look forward to working with them.

Plan Now to Sample Your Soil:

The best time to sample your soil is in late summer or early fall. This is the best time to get a true nutrient status of the soil that a growing crop encounters. Soil samples should not be taken when the ground is wet or frozen or shortly after you have applied lime or fertilizer. Even pinch of fertilizer or lime in a soil sample will give a very high analysis, resulting in incorrect recommendations.

It is important to test your soils before applying any lime or fertilizer. This will enable you to add the correct amount, depending on each area tested. Even fields that are side-by side normally have different nutrient needs.

You can pull your own samples or the LKCD will come and take the samples for you. The fee is $25.00 for the visit. Call our office at (304) 422-9072

You need to take multiple samples from each field to get a good composite sample

USDA
United States Department of Agriculture

Farm Service Agency
91 Boyles Lane
Parkersburg, WV 26104
Phone: 304-422-9072
Email: eleanor.porter@wv.usda.gov
Web: www.fsa.usda.gov/wv

News Release

USDA Unveils New Improvement to Streamline Crop Reporting

Update Lets Farmers and Ranchers Report Common Acreage Information Once

Farmers and ranchers filing crop acreage reports with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and participating insurance providers approved by the Risk Management Agency (RMA) now can provide the common information from their acreage reports at one office and the information will be electronically shared with the other location.

This new process is part of the USDA Acreage Crop Reporting Streamlining Initiative (ACRSI). This interagency collaboration also includes participating private crop insurance agents and insurance companies, all working to streamline the information collected from farmers and ranchers who participate in USDA programs.

Once filing at one location, data that's important to both FSA and RMA will be securely and electronically shared with the other location avoiding redundant and duplicative reporting, as well as saving farmers and rancher's time.

Since 2009, USDA has been working to streamline the crop reporting process for agricultural producers, who have expressed concerns with providing the same basic common information for multiple locations. In 2013, USDA consolidated the deadlines to 15 dates for submitting these reports, down from the previous 54 dates at RMA and 17 dates for FSA. USDA representatives believe farmers and ranchers will experience a notable improvement in the coming weeks as they approach the peak season for crop reporting later this summer.

More than 93 percent of all annual reported acres to FSA and RMA now are eligible for the common data reporting, and USDA is exploring adding more crops. Producers must still visit both locations to validate and sign acreage reports, complete maps or provide program-specific information. The common data from the first-filed acreage report will now be available to pre-populate and accelerate completion of the second report. Plans are underway at USDA to continue building upon the framework with additional efficiencies at a future date.

Farmers and ranchers are also reminded that they can now access their FSA farm information from the convenience of their home computer. Producers can see field boundaries, images of the farm, conservation status, operator and owner information and much more.

The new customer self-service portal, known as ***FSA*** *Farm+*, gives farmers and ranchers online access to securely view, print or export their personal farm data. To enroll in the online service, producers are encouraged to contact their local FSA office for details. To contact your local office in Pleasants/Ritchie/Wood/Wirt County call 304-422-9072.

Farm Storage Facility Loans

FSA's Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program provides low-interest financing to producers to build or upgrade storage facilities.

The low-interest funds can be used to build or upgrade permanent facilities to store commodities. Eligible commodities include corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley, minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain, pulse crops (lentils, chickpeas and dry peas), hay, honey, renewable biomass, fruits, nuts and vegetables for cold storage facilities, floriculture, hops, maple sap, rye, milk, cheese, butter, yogurt, meat and poultry (unprocessed), eggs, and aquaculture (excluding systems that maintain live animals through uptake and discharge of water). Qualified facilities include grain bins, hay barns and cold storage facilities for eligible commodities.

Loans up to $50,000 can be secured by a promissory note/security agreement and some loans between $50,000 and $100,000 will no longer require additional security.

Producers do not need to demonstrate the lack of commercial credit availability to apply. The loans are designed to assist a diverse range of farming operations, including small and mid-sized businesses, new farmers, operations supplying local food and farmers markets, non-traditional farm products, and underserved producers.

To learn more about the FSA Farm Storage Facility Loan, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/pricesupport or contact your local FSA county office.

USDA Expands Microloans to Help Farmers Purchase Farmland and Improve Property

Producers, Including Beginning and Underserved Farmers, Have a New Option to Gain Access to Land

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is offering farm ownership microloans, creating a new financing avenue for farmers to buy and improve property. These microloans are especially helpful to beginning or underserved farmers, U.S. veterans looking for a career in farming, and those who have small and mid-sized farming operations.

The microloan program, which celebrates its third anniversary this week, has been hugely successful, providing more than 16,800 low-interest loans, totaling over $373 million to producers across the country. Microloans have helped farmers and ranchers with operating costs, such as feed, fertilizer, tools, fencing, equipment, and living expenses since 2013. Seventy percent of loans have gone to new farmers.

Now, microloans will be available to also help with farm land and building purchases, and soil and water conservation improvements. FSA designed the expanded program to simplify the application process, expand eligibility requirements and expedite smaller real estate loans to help farmers strengthen their operations. Microloans provide up to $50,000 to qualified producers, and can be issued to the applicant directly from the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA).

This microloan announcement is another USDA resource for America's farmers and ranchers to utilize, especially as new and beginning farmers and ranchers look for the assistance they need to get started. To learn more about the FSA microloan program visit www.fsa.usda.gov/microloans, or contact the Mill Run FSA Office at 304-422-9072.

Extension Corner:

2017 WVU Extension's Progressive Farmer Dinner Meeting:

The WVU Extension Service in Roane County is offering our annual first Pro-gressive Farmer Winter Dinner Meetings in 2017. The first dinner meeting will take place on **Wednesday, January 25, 2017** at 6:30 pm at the **Jackson County Extension Office**. January's topic will be "**Parasite Control"** by Scott Bowdridge. February's topic will be "**Fencing"** by Bill Iams and will take place on **Tuesday, February 21, 2017** at 6:30 pm at **Roane County High School's Vo-Ag Dept.** The March topic will be **"Pasture and Hay Weed Control"** by Jeff Clark on **Tues-day, March 21, 2017** at 6:30 pm at **Roane County High School's Vo-Ag Dept.** These meetings are free and open to the public, but pre-registration is requested and suggested to plan for meals. To pre-register for this meeting or for more Infor-mation, call the WVU-Roane County Extension Agency.

Wildlife Habitat Education Program (WHEP)

FFA Instructors, 4-H Leaders, and all Wildlife Enthusiasts

I am still working to grow the Wildlife Habitat Education Program (WHEP) in West Virginia. This will be the second year for WHEP in WV. We held our state contest back in April and hosted the National Contest in July. Both were very successful. Mineral County FFA won the WV state contest and represented WV at the National Contest. They placed First among FFA Teams and 5th overall. A very successful year.

As a reminder, WHEP is a hands-on natural resource program dedicated to teaching wildlife and fisheries habitat management to youth aged 8-19 through 4-H and FFA organizations, and it culminates in annual state and national contest. For more information please visit the website at www.whep.org. I will be hosting another WHEP training session at Jackson's Mill on Saturday, December 10th. The training will run from 10am through 4pm. Lunch will be served, and we will walk through the manual and talk about the different components of the contest.

Please RSVP back to me by November 28th, so I can get an accurate count for lunch. If you have any questions please contact me at 304-293-2990 or shel-don.owen@mail.wvu.edu.

I hope to see you there.
Sheldon F. Owen, Ph.D.
Wildlife Extension Specialist

West Virginia University
EXTENSION SERVICE

2nd Annual Mountaineer Cattlemen's College December 2-3, 2016

NAME	**LAST**	**FIRST**	**MIDDLE**
ORGANIZATION		**FARM**	
ADDRESS	**STREET**		
	CITY	**STATE**	**ZIP**
DAY PHONE		**CELL PHONE**	
EMAIL ADDRESS			

SESSIONS

☐ General Admission - Both days - December 2 & 3 ..... $85.00

☐ Saturday Admission - December 3 ..... $85.00

TOTAL DUE ..... $ _____

PAYMENT OPTIONS

☐ Check included – make payable to WVU

☐ Visa/MasterCard # _____ EXP. _____ CVN* _____

**CVN (Card Verification Number) is the last 3-digit number printed on the back of your card.*

Name on Card _____

Billing Address _____

Signature _____

Return this form to: West Virginia University Agricultural & Natural Resources
WVU Extension Service
Attn: Heather Grimes
PO Box 6108
Morgantown, WV 26506-6108

You can also register by:

- Using our secure online site https://epay.wvsto.com/WVU/WVUANREvents
- Calling Becky Casteel at 304-293-2565
- Emailing Heather Grimes at HLGrimes@mail.wvu.edu

Questions? Call Kevin Shaffer at 304-293-2669 or Ronnie Helmondollar at 304-293-9464.

Mountaineer Cattlemen's College Educational Program

Saturday, December 3, 2016

General Session

Time	Topic	Speaker
9:00 AM	International Trade Implications on Beef Markets	Kent Bacus *National Cattlemen's Beef Association*
9:45 AM	The Veterinary Feed Directive from a Feed Supplier Perspective—Implications for Producers	Mike Peacock, Ph.D. *Southern States Cooperative*
11:00 AM	Creating Value in a Challenging Market	Darrell Busby, Ph.D. *Iowa State University*
11:45 AM	Cow/calf Internal Parasite Management	Scott Bowdridge, Ph.D. *West Virginia University*

Afternoon Session

Time	Breakout I:	Breakout II:	Breakout III:
2:00 PM	Risk Management Tools for WV Beef Producers *Tom McConnell, WVU Extension*	Reseeding Winter Feeding Areas *Ed Rayburn, WVU Extension*	Show Me The Money—Tools for Financial Evaluation *Brian Wickline, WVU Extension*
3:00 PM	**WVCA/WVBIC Update**		

Schedule of Events

2016 Mountaineer Cattlemen's College

Friday, December 2nd

Event	Time
Registration	2:00 PM – 6:30 PM
Quiz Bowl (Preliminary Rounds)	3:00 PM – 6:00 PM
Calf Pool Meeting	2:30 PM – 3:30 PM
Wardensville Bull Test Meeting	3:30 PM – 4:30 PM
Southern Bull Test Meeting	4:30 PM – 5:30 PM
Dinner (Stillwaters Restaurant—Dutch Treat)	5:30 PM – 7:30 PM
Beef Queen Presentations	7:30 PM – 8:00 PM
Quiz Bowl Finals	8:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Social	9:00 PM – 11:00 PM

Saturday, December 3rd

Event	Time
Breakfast	8:00 AM – 8:45 AM
Registration	8:00 AM – 11:00 AM
Welcome	8:45 AM – 9:00 AM
Speaker I	9:00 AM – 9:45 AM
Speaker II	9:45 AM – 10:30 AM
Break	10:30 AM – 11:00 AM
Speaker III	11:00 AM – 11:45 AM
Speaker IV	11:45 AM – 12:30 PM
Luncheon—Quiz Bowl Auction	12:30 PM – 2:00 PM
Cattle Women Meeting	2:00 PM
Breakout Sessions	2:00 PM – 3:00 PM
WVCA/WVBIC Update	3:00 PM

FOCUS ON WEEDS: JOHNSONGRASS

Johnsongrass (*Sorghum halepense*) is a problem perennial grass weed here in Wood and surrounding counties in West Virginia that invades hay and pasture fields as well as row crop corn and soybean production. It is hard to believe that it was originally introduced into the United States as a forage crop and now is listed as a noxious weed in West Virginia and many other states. Infestations can become dense severely limited corn, soybean and hay production unless control measures are implemented. Grazing johnsongrass or mowing it several times does weaken its root system and can aid in control in pastures. However, it will persist with monthly hay cutting, so do not expect good control from cutting alone for hay fields.

Johnsongrass has several features which make it well equipped to spread to new areas and compete with crop production, including its prolific production of seeds and extensive creeping rhizome root system. It is an upright perennial, often growing to heights of 6 to 8 feet tall. It has wide leaves with thickened whitish midribs and its panicles (seed heads) are open. These many branches support thousands of spikelets from which seeds are readily shattered. A key identifying characteristic of the vegetative stage is its relatively large, jagged-edged, membranous ligule. In addition to a typical fibrous root system, johnsongrass produces thick cream-colored rhizomes, covered with orange scales.

Johnsongrass can poison livestock if it has suffered from drought or an early frost, due to buildup of prussic acid in the plant tissues. Rhizomes have been found more than 47 inches deep in cultivated soil, and five -year-old seeds displayed 50 percent viability. A single plant can produce 200-300 ft. of rhizomes in one month and 10 bushels of seed can be produced on one acre in a single growing season.

Prevention is crucial in controlling johnsongrass from spreading and becoming established in new areas due to its spreading roots and seed production. Johnsongrass is a perennial weed so single cultural control measures or herbicide applications rarely provide adequate control. Reducing johnsongrass infestations requires an integrated approach consisting of soil-applied herbicides, postemergence herbicides, crop rotation and tillage. Johnsongrass control programs should:
1)Prevent spread of rhizomes from infested to uninfested areas (on equipment from field to field)

2)Kill or weaken established plants and their underground rhizome system.

3)Control seedlings originating from shattered seed.

4)Prevent production of seed and its spread to new areas (may include fencerows)

Use fall tillage to bring rhizomes to the soil surface, where they may be killed by winter conditions. In limited infestations, it is possible and desirable to use herbicides to kill the weed and prevent seed production. The critical time to kill johnsongrass is while the weed is becoming established and before it has spread over an entire field. For sites with established infestations, a fall application of glyphosate will kill emerging and developing rhizomes.

Control of Johnson grass can be achieved using a 2% glyphosate containing products such as Roundup, but the disturbing news are reports from southern states of Johnson grass plants resistant to glyphosate resistant Although they are older products, according to Penn State Accent and Beason will still provide 85% control of johnsongrass in corn. Fall plowing where applicable will expose grass rhizomes to killing temperatures.

West Virginia Southern Bull Test

And Replacement Heifer Sale

Saturday, March 25, 2017 11:00am

Henderson, WV

Keep up with performance data at

http://southernsires.ext.wvu.edu/

POWER IN THE PASTURES:MANAGING DROUGHT STRESS

The late summer of 2016 provided little rain for grass growth in Wood County. Lack of rain coupled with the extreme heat left many of our pastures short and overgrazed. Keep in mind, healthy pastures can withstand some dry conditions, but repeated leaf area removal will make plants more susceptible to injury. Fall rains have helped the situation, but we need to apply several management strategies to assist pastures in recovering and preparing for next spring.

Rotational Grazing-This is the most important strategy to manage grass. Pastures need rest to regrow, and lack of moisture will require longer rest periods. Rotationally grazed pastures recover faster.

Strategic Supplementation-Rather than damage pastures it may be necessary to use a "sacrifice" pastures and feed hay or a combination of hay/soy hull pellets to allow time for pasture regrowth. Do not open all the gates and allow livestock free roam of the farm. Overgrazing will damage plant root systems and will slow recovery even after it rains.

Keep the Soil Sweet-Maintaining correct soil pH between 6.2-6.5 with lime applications will maintain healthy grass growth and encourage clover growth in our pastures.

Supply Potash and Phosphorus
Potassium levels are important to maintain legumes in our pastures and phosphorus is crucial for root growth as well as the transfer of energy in plants.

Stockpiling fro Winter Grass–
Tall fescue can provide ample feed in late fall and early winter after the frost. The main concern is when to apply nitrogen and how much. Applying 50lb. Of actual nitrogen per acre in late August is shown to be most effective, but grass growth will not respond without rain. The best bet is to wait until there is a high chance of rain before application Addition of a urease inhibitor such as Agrotain© will increase success.

In summary, most drought stressed pastures will recover with proper management including rest and improved fertility. Weakened sods also provide an opportunity to incorporating legumes into pastures either through no-till or broadcast methods. Our grasslands are one of the most valuable resources here in WV. Good luck and happy grazing.

FARM TAX WORSHOP FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9 10:00AM-12:00PM

A farm tax workshop will be held **Friday, December 9 from 10:00am-12:00 pm at Parkersburg in the Fort Boreman Room of the Judge Black Annex to the Wood County Courthouse.** Meeting room is directly across from the Blennerhassett Hotel. The event is co-sponsored by The WVU Extension Service Small Farm Center and Wood County Farm Bureau. Lunch will be provided.

The perspective of the workshop is toward enlightening participants as to how to manage tax liability as opposed to accurately filing the tax forms. That information is also available, but most filers tend to concentrate on the anatomically correct Schedule F form and ignore the many advantageous options they have. This list includes spousal employment, accurate accounting of USDA conservation payments, and subsection 179 deductions, to name a few.

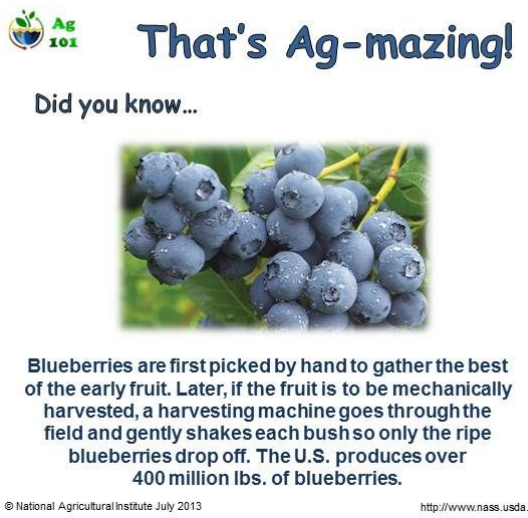
Many farm couples are too busy keeping their operations, families, and lives organized to realize that they "don't know what they don't know" about tax management. They usually dread taxes, so they put off completing their reporting until near the tax deadline. This practice denies them the pre-paid expense option which allows them to truly manage not just pay their taxes.

Tom McConnell, WVU Extension Service Small Farm Center program director, will be teaching this informative and valuable class. Tom has taught this workshop at Annie's Project participants and at several conferences across the United States . Please contact the Extension office to sign up for this great event.


WestVirginiaUniversity.
EXTENSION SERVICE
SMALL FARM CENTER
SAVE THE DATE
February 12-14, 2017
Charleston Civic Center
Charleston, West Virginia
It's all about
THE FOOD
and Community
West Virginia
Small Farm Conference


SAVE THE DATE
Livestock Nutrition
& FDA Veterinary Feed Directive
by Neil Bumgarner of Cargill
Tuesday, January 17, 2017
6:30 pm
Roane County High School Vo-Ag Dept.


APPALACHAIN GRAZING CONFERENCE
Growing Grass to New Heights
Does your grass measure up?
Appalachian Grazing Conference
Secure Online Event Registration
MARCH 10-11, 2017
Waterfront Hotel, Morgantown, WV


Ag 101
That's Ag-mazing!
Did you know...
Blueberries are first picked by hand to gather the best of the early fruit. Later, if the fruit is to be mechanically harvested, a harvesting machine goes through the field and gently shakes each bush so only the ripe blueberries drop off. The U.S. produces over 400 million lbs. of blueberries.
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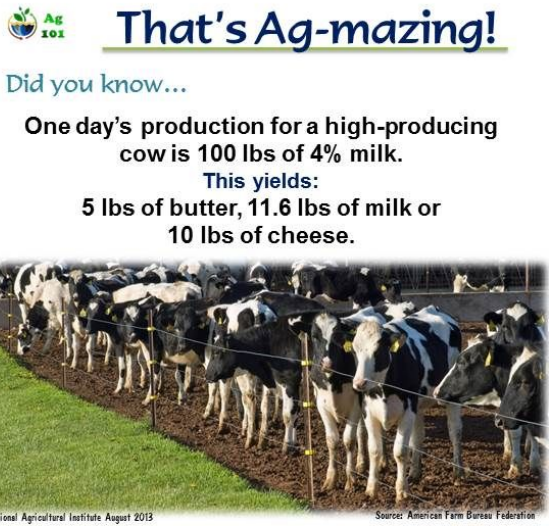
http://www.nass.usda.gov/


Ag 101
That's Ag-mazing!
Did you know...
One day's production for a high-producing cow is 100 lbs of 4% milk.
This yields:
5 lbs of butter, 11.6 lbs of milk or
10 lbs of cheese.
© National Agricultural Institute August 2013
Source: American Farm Bureau Federation

Little Kanawha Conservation District Supervisors

The Little Kanawha Conservation District is composed of (5) counties. There are (2) elected supervisors per county that serve a four year term.

The following is a list of supervisors for the LKCD district:

Calhoun County:
Norma Collins
Roger Collins

Ritchie County:
Ivan Banks
Mike Nichols

Roane County:
Judy Saunders
Sam Sheets

Wirt County:
Roseann Adams
Roger Shaver

Wood County:
Delmas Carr
Dexter Graham

Equipment for rent by Cooperators:
Before you can rent, you must have completed an "Equipment Rental Form" and paid a deposit where required.

Items for rent are:
Lime Spreaders, 2 Ton deposit
$50 a day
Lime Spreader, 4 Ton deposit
$70 a day
Fertilizer Spreader
$15 a day
Weed Wiper
$50 a day
No-Till Drill
$15 a acre
ATV Seeder
$15 a day

If you are receiving more than one newsletter or if your address is NOT correct on the mailing label, please let us know. (304) 422-9072 or lkcd@wvca.us

Little Kanawha Conservation District
Phone: (304) 422-9072
Email: LKCD@wvca.us

Return Service Requested

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