Forage Day at the Purdue University Feldun Purdue Ag Center (FPAC), Bedford

Thursday, August 9th, 2018

Agenda:

8:00 – 8:30  Registration & Welcome
8:30 – 9:30  Session (Johnson)
9:30 – 10:30 Session (Osborne/Johnson/Lemenager)
10:30 – 10:45 Break
10:45 – 11:45 Session (Tower)
11:45 – 12:15 Lunch
12:15 – 1:15  Session (Minton/Stefancik)
1:15 – 2:15  Session (Camberato)
2:15 – 2:30 Break
2:30 – 3:30  Session (Zupancic/Shelton)
3:30 – 3:45 Survey collection, CCA & Indiana CCH sign-out

Topics & Speakers:

Stand Establishment of Coated and Uncoated Red Clover and Alfalfa Seed
Keith Johnson

Most of the alfalfa and red clover varieties available to producers are coated with a combination of lime, fungicide and inoculant. The coating can account for up to one third of the weight which reduces the number of seed per pound. Many seedsmen indicate that a similar weight of coated and uncoated seed recommended per acre will give similar stands. Stand count information and associated dry matter weight of the harvested plants will be shared with attendees. Participants will have the opportunity to do sampling of the plot area on the training day.

Replacement Beef Heifers Preference for BMR or Normal Sorghum-Sudangrass, Pearl Millet and Sudangrass
Dave Osborne, Keith Johnson and Ron Lemenager

Sorghum-sudangrass, pearl millet and sudangrass are warm-season annual grasses that are excellent for grazing during the summer months. These grasses are available with or without the brown midrib trait, which results in less or altered lignin as compared to the normal grasses that do not have that gene. As a result, digestibility, consumption and livestock performance has been documented to be better than the non-brown midrib cultivars. Three replicates of these grasses, with or without the brown midrib trait, were seeded and grazed by beef replacement heifers. Quality differences among the grasses and the observations noted during grazing with the use drone technology will be shared with attendees.

Fence Options for Livestock
Jason Tower

Rotational stocking as compared to continuous stocking results in improved plant health and more efficient use of the forage which improves the profitability of the livestock enterprise. Use of modern day fencing options makes rotational grazing possible and results in flexible management with use of non-permanent interior fencing. Permanent exterior fencing and interior fencing options will be exhibited at this educational stop.

Sensory and Laboratory Analyses of Hay and Silage
Nick Minton and Brooke Stefancik

Forage quality among and within forage crops differ because of management imposed by the manager or the environment. Quality is impacted by the species, plant maturity, harvest management, presence of pests (weeds, insects, disease) and mold, and soil fertility. Hay and silage samples from the Feldun-Purdue Agricultural Center have been analyzed by a laboratory and will be shared with attendees. Participants will
also do a sensory analysis of the same forages that have been analyzed for nutritional quality by the laboratory. Discussion will occur about what type of livestock would best utilize the different quality of forages exhibited and what nutritional supplement strategies should be employed.

**Recommendations Regarding Fertilization of Forages with Sulfur**  
*Jim Camberato*  
In the past several years, it has been documented that many agronomic crops in Indiana are sulfur deficient. Interpretation of soil and tissue tests will occur at this educational stop. Discussion will follow on what should be done if a sulfur response is expected with the crop being grown. Portions of a cool-season grass pasture and an alfalfa/orchardgrass hay field have received an application of sulfur. Tissue test results from the areas will be shared with attendees. A drone has been used to verify whether plant color differences are observed.

**Value of a High Use Area Pad**  
*Robert Zupancic and Brad Shelton*  
The late winter and early spring months are problematic to livestock that are in an outside environment and those that care for them because of mud around feed bunks, hay bale rings, water tanks, and gateways. Construction of a high use area pad in these places reduces the negative impact of a muddy environment. A high use area pad close to completion will be highlighted at this stop. Typical installation cost and care of the high use area pad will also be discussed.

**Applying for Credits/Points:**

CEU’s (3.0 CM, 1.0 NM)

Indiana CCH’s (1.0 for category 1 & RT, 1.0 for category 14)