

# Virginia Cooperative Extension



## FARM NOTES

January 2016

### Agronomy Update Meeting

Thursday, February 11

Creekside Plain and Fancy, Edinburg

Please register by February 5.

To register (and in case of Inclement Weather), call 459-6140

There is a \$5 fee, payable at the door. Checks made payable to:  
"VCE-Shenandoah County."

VCE's policy is that there will be a \$50 charge for all returned checks.



### Speakers/Topics:

Orchardgrass Research Update

Gordon Jones, Doctorial Student at Virginia Tech

Corn and Wheat Production Update

Dr. Wade Thomason, Extension Agronomy Specialist



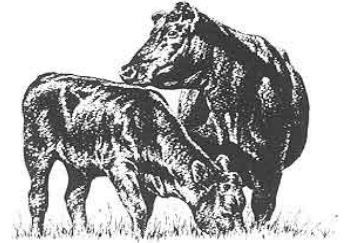
### Inside This Issue:

1. Agronomy Update Meeting
2. Graze 300 Meeting
3. Virginia No-Till Alliance
4. 2016 Winter Forage Conferences to Feature Experts on Tall Fescue
5. Virginia Cooperative Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources Program and Events - Winter 2016
6. Stockpiling Novel Endophyte Tall Fescue for Summer Grazing
7. Keeping Your Farmland Farming
7. Certification Training for New Commercial and Private Pesticide Applicators
8. The Most Important Thing for Beef Cow Profits...

## **Graze 300 Virginia Meeting**

### **How to Graze Your Cow/Calf Herd 300 Days Per Year**

***Come Hear How the Experts  
Consistently Graze their Cow/  
Calf Herds 300 Days Per Year.***



**February 23**

**10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.**

**Toms Brook Fire Hall**

**3342 South Main Street, Toms Brook, VA 22660**

**\$10 registration fee, payable at the door or in advance**

**(check payable to: "VCE-Shenandoah County")**

**VCE's policy is that there will be a \$50 charge for all returned checks.**

**Please register by February 18**

**To register (and in case of Inclement Weather), call 540-459-6140**

#### **Speakers**

**These four speakers have been successfully grazing their cow/calf herds for  
300 days per year or more for several years.**

**David Fisk, Superintendent, Virginia Tech Research Farm, Steeles Tavern**

**Roy Baldrige, Cow/Calf Producer**

**Jon Repair, Grazing Consultant and Cow/Calf Producer**

**Jess Herbers, Cow/Calf Producer**



- **How to Stockpile Early Summer Growth for Use in July/August**
- **Extending the Grazing Season through Dry Years**
- **How Rotational Grazing Improves Both Productivity and Efficiency**
- **Getting Off to a Good Start in the Spring**
- **How Cattle Perform on Graze 300 Systems**

# Virginia No-Till Alliance

Harrisonburg Winter Conference

**February 17, 2016**

8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Rockingham County Fairgrounds



## *Crop Protection in the No-Till Environment*

### Featured Speakers

#### Ken Ferrie

Ken Ferrie grew up working on his Iowa family farm, tending hogs, cattle, and a dairy herd. He holds a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Science and Agricultural Business from Illinois State University. Much of his leading-edge agronomic training was received as an apprentice under Dr. Everett Dennis, private agronomist from Manhattan, KS. Ken currently manages Crop Tech Consulting ([www.croptechconsulting.com](http://www.croptechconsulting.com)) based in Heyworth, Illinois.



#### Paul Bodenstine

Paul W. Bodenstine is a graduate of the University of Tennessee with a B.S. in Plant and Soil Science and is an ASA Certified Professional Agronomist. Bodenstine worked in commercial agribusiness as a professional agronomist for 20 years before starting ag.systems a private agriculture research and development company. For the past 19 years, ag.systems has worked with commercial farms and private agribusinesses in 12 states developing high yield crop production systems for wheat, barley, alfalfa, corn, soybeans, tobacco, sugarcane, cotton, fruits, and vegetables with an emphasis on balanced plant nutrition and plant health.



**\$10 registration fee. Pay in advance or at the door. Make checks payable to "VANTAGE" and mail to VCE-Rockingham County, 965 Pleasant Valley Road, Harrisonburg, VA 22801.**

# 2016 Winter Forage Conferences to Feature Experts on Tall Fescue

## Locations:

Tuesday, January 26, 2016, Southern Piedmont AREC, Blackstone.

Wednesday, January 27, 2016, Wytheville Meeting Center, Wytheville

Thursday, January 28, 2016, Weyers Cave Community Center, Weyers Cave

Friday, January 29, 2016, Brandy Station Fire Department, Brandy Station

**Tall Fescue in the 21st Century** is the theme for the Virginia Forage and Grassland Council (VFGC) and Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) winter forage conferences. This year's conference highlights current knowledge and practice that producers can apply to management of their tall fescue based grazing systems. This year's speakers are nationally recognized experts in tall fescue production and management. The morning program will focus on understanding issues and problems with tall fescue and the afternoon program will explore potential solutions to these problems.

Matt Booher and John Benner, extension agents in Augusta County, will set the stage for the conference by discussing results from field trials conducted in the Shenandoah Valley. The morning program will then feature Dr. Glen Aiken from USDA-Agricultural Research Service's Forage-Animal Production Research Unit in Lexington Kentucky. Dr. Aiken will explain the impact that tall fescue infected with the toxic endophyte has on the animal and provide a research update on tall fescue toxicosis. Following the morning break, Dr. Joe Bouton, Emeritus Professor, University of Georgia and former Director of the Forage Improvement Division at the Noble Foundation, will discuss the opportunities and challenges of incorporating novel endophyte tall fescues into grazing systems.

After lunch Dr. Craig Roberts, AgBotanica, LLC and University of Missouri Extension will discuss a new genetic test for evaluating the tolerance of cattle to tall fescue toxicosis. The test, called the T-Snip, is the first commercially available genetic test that can identify cattle with improved tolerance to tall fescue. Byron Sleugh, field scientist with Dow AgroSciences, will discuss chemical seedhead suppression in tall fescue pastures as a potential component of an integrated approach to tall fescue management.

Following lunch, students from Virginia Tech will share their experiences from a two-week, multi-university traveling course that started in Texas and ended in Colorado. The objective of this course is to allow students to learn about the various components of grazing systems and how they differ in various regions of the country. The VFGC is proud to have sponsored the students from Virginia Tech.

The highlight of the conference will be producer speakers from each region of the state that will describe how they manage tall fescue on their farms. These speakers will provide an overview of their operations and share insights on how they are managing tall fescue at the farm level.

The final presentation of the day will be made by Dr. John Andrae of Clemson University. Dr Andrae is a researcher and extension specialist and co-author of *Fescue Toxicosis and Management*. He will help participants understand how to put all the pieces together and how to integrate what they have learned into a plan to better manage tall fescue in their grazing systems.

The conferences will run from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm.

To register for this conference, please visit <http://vaforages.org/event/2016-vfgc-winter-coferences/>. You will have the option of registering online using a credit card or downloading the conference brochure/registration form that can be filled out and sent in with a check made payable to the VFGC. The early registration fee is \$35 and must be submitted online or postmarked by Jan. 4, 2016. After January 4, 2016, the registration fee increases to \$50 per person. A youth registration rate is available; please contact the VFGC for details.

For more information on this conference, contact Margaret Kenny ([makenny@vt.edu](mailto:makenny@vt.edu)) at (434) 292-5331.

## Virginia Cooperative Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources Programs and Events Winter 2016

### DAIRY SCIENCE

#### January

- 11 > Winter Calf Meeting, Montezuma Hall, Dayton
- 27 > Holistic Farm Management and Planning, Harrisonburg Farm Credit

#### February

- 17-19 > Nutritional Cow College, Hotel Roanoke

#### March

- 9 > Area Dairy Conference, Montezuma Hall, Dayton
- 12 > Farm Safety Day, Dayton
- 31 > Dairy Management Institute, Dayton Methodist Church

#### April

- 2 > Virginia Spring Holstein Show, Rockingham County Fairgrounds, Harrisonburg
- 9 > State 4-H Dairy Bowl Contest, East Rockingham High School

**For more information on Extension Dairy Programming, contact Jeremy Daubert at 540-564-3080 or [jdaubert@vt.edu](mailto:jdaubert@vt.edu).**

### LIVESTOCK

#### January

- 19 > Virginia Cattlemen's Winter Educational Meeting, Weyers Cave

#### February

- 10, 17, & 24 > Futures and Options for Cattle and Grain Producers, Verona, Three-part series
- 25 > Cow/Calf Producers Conference, Weyers Cave

**For more information on Extension Animal Science Programming, contact Corey Childs at 540-635-4549 or [cchilds@vt.edu](mailto:cchilds@vt.edu).**



### COMMERCIAL HORTICULTURE

#### February

- 12 > Annual Fruit School, Best Western Lee-Jackson Banquet Hall in Winchester
- Late February > Commercial Vegetable School

#### March

Food Safety Workshop for Vegetable & Fruit Growers

#### April-October

Monthly On-Farm Meetings

**For more information on Extension Horticulture Programming, contact Mark Sutphin at 540-665-5699 or [msutphin@vt.edu](mailto:msutphin@vt.edu).**

### OTHER MEETINGS

#### January

- 12 > Commercial Pesticide Applicator Recertification Training, Northern Virginia 4-H Educational Center, Front Royal
- 19-21 > Virginia Crop Improvement Association Annual Meeting <http://www.vacropproduction.com/annualmeetinginfo.htm>

#### February

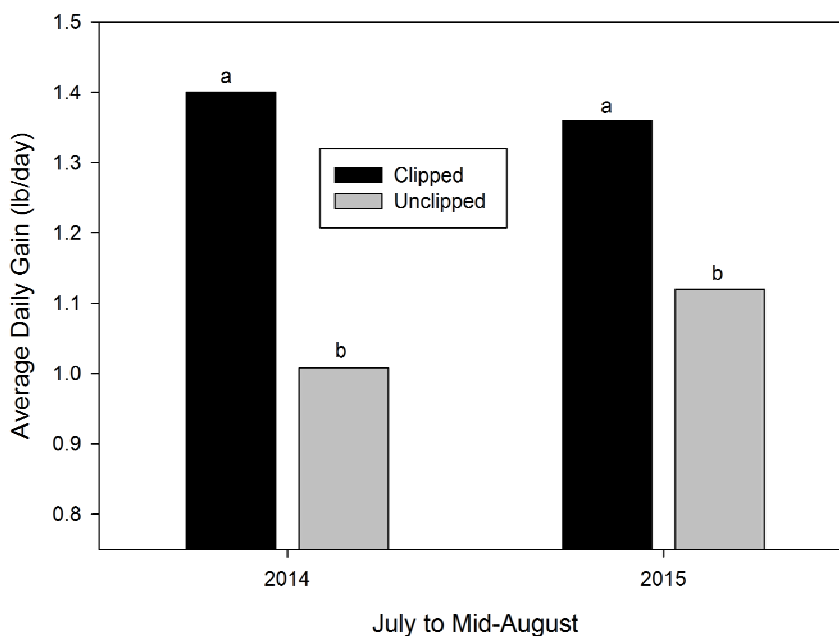
- 8 > Commercial Pesticide Applicator Recertification Training, Weyers Cave Community Center

**For more information on these meetings, contact Bobby Clark at 540-459-6140 or [raclark@vt.edu](mailto:raclark@vt.edu).**

## STOCKPILING NOVEL ENDOPHYTE TALL FESCUE FOR SUMMER GRAZING

By Chris Teutsch and Brian Campbell, DSM Nutritional Products

In Virginia and other transition zone states, high temperatures and drought often limit forage availability during the summer months. This area of the U.S. is also dominated by tall fescue, most of which is infected with the toxic endophyte. The use of tall fescue pastures during the summer months has been discouraged due to tall fescue toxicosis. The incorporation of novel endophyte tall fescue into grazing systems has the potential to alter usage patterns. Past research has focused on



stockpiling tall fescue in late summer for winter grazing. However, non-toxic tall fescue could potentially be stockpiled during spring to provide grazing during the summer months. The objective of this study was to evaluate animal performance on novel endophyte tall fescue that was stockpiled for summer grazing. Pasture growth was either allowed to accumulate from spring green up to the start of the study or pastures were clipped in mid-May and growth was allowed to accumulate. All pastures were fertilized with 60 lbs of N/acre in mid-May. Heifers in 2014 (551 lb avg.) and steers in 2015 (491 lb avg.) were randomly assigned to the treatment-replication combinations. Grazing was initiated in early July and ended in mid-August. Cattle were weighed every two weeks. In 2014, heifers grazing pastures that were clipped had higher ADGs than calves grazing unclipped pastures (1.38 versus 1.20 lb/day) ( $P = 0.05$ ). In 2015, steers grazing the clipped pastures also had higher ADGs (1.40 versus 1.09 lb/day) ( $P = 0.09$ ). These data indicate novel endophyte tall fescue stockpiled for summer grazing can support reasonable levels of ADG during the summer months, especially if pastures are clipped or grazed to remove reproductive tissue prior to stockpiling.

*Chris Teutsch works at Virginia Tech's Southern Piedmont AREC located near Blackstone, VA and lives on a small farm in Dinwiddie County with his Angie and their four children. Brian Campbell is a Technical Support Manager at DSM Nutritional Products and resides in Texas*



# Keeping Your Farmland Farming

## *Seminars to Help People Transition Their Farm to the Next Generation*

**Business and Tax Management Issues, 5:15 p.m.**

**Featured Speaker: Mark Botkin, Attorney, Botkin-Rose, Harrisonburg**

Tuesday, January 12 – Creekside Plain and Fancy, Edinburg

Thursday, January 14 – Augusta Government Center, Verona

**Wills, Powers of Attorney, & Advanced Medical Directives, 5:15 p.m.**

**Featured Speaker: Jeff Adams, Attorney, Wharton, Aldhizer, & Weaver, Harrisonburg**

Tuesday, January 19 – Creekside Plain and Fancy, Edinburg

Thursday, January 21 – Augusta Government Center, Verona

**Land Leasing for Farming in the Shenandoah Valley, 5:15 p.m.**

**Featured Speaker: John Flora, Attorney, Lenhart-Pettit, Harrisonburg**

Tuesday, February 9 – Creekside Plain and Fancy, Edinburg

Thursday, February 11 – Augusta Government Center, Verona

**\$5.00 per person collected at the door at each event to help cover meal costs.**

**Please register the Friday before the event to assure sufficient space and meals.**

Contact Tom Stanley at 540-588-0241 or [stanleyt@vt.edu](mailto:stanleyt@vt.edu) for more information.

## Private Pesticide Applicator and Core Manual Preparation Training

**March 16**

9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. (REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 8:30 a.m.)

Mid Atlantic Farm Credit

125 Prosperity Drive, Suite 100, Winchester, VA 22602

\$40 registration fee (which needs to be paid in advance)

Please register by March 1

This class is being offered to people who want to receive either their Private or Commercial Pesticide Applicator Licenses. We will provide each person who registers a copy of the core manual and our instructions will focus on information contained in the core manual. At the conclusion of the class, we will offer an exam those wishing to get a license as a private pesticide applicator or Registered Technician. We will not offer any exams for the Commercial license. Anyone wishing to take the Registered Technician exam must first apply through VDACS and be approved prior to taking that exam. <http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/pesticides.shtml> (Call 540-830-1547 for more details.)

Checks should be made out to "VCE-Warren County" and mailed to Virginia Cooperative Extension-Warren County, 220 North Commerce Avenue, Suite 500, Front Royal, VA 22630. VCE's policy is that there will be a \$50 charge for all returned checks. Call 540-635-4549 or e-mail Corey Childs ([cchilds@vt.edu](mailto:cchilds@vt.edu)) if you have any questions.



Shenandoah County Office 600 North Main Street, Suite 100, Woodstock, Virginia 22664-1855

540-459-6140 FAX: 540-459-6147 [raclark@vt.edu](mailto:raclark@vt.edu)

**“The Most Important Thing For Beef Cow Profits . . .”**

TABLE 1.	
Beef Herd Cost Item	Proportion of Variation in Profit (%)
Hay and other Feed	56.7
Depreciation	8.6
Operating Costs	4.9
Calf Weight	4.6
Calf Price	2.7
Interest on Capital	2.4
Weaning Percentage	1.7
Herd Size	.07

In a project led by the University of Illinois in 2012, 158 beef herds contributed their financial data to allow Dr. Allen Williams to categorize individual expenses for each operation. Across these 158 herds, the top 15% of herds averaged net income of \$254 per cow and the bottom 15% of herds averaged -\$67 per cow loss! His analysis showed what management areas had the greatest influence on profitability. The results of this work (Table 1.) show that 8 financial categories explain 82% of the farm to farm variation in profitability and that feed costs (including hay making, feeding hay, and purchased feed) are by far the biggest determinant in beef herd profitability. Focusing on reducing number of days making and feeding hay was 12 times more important to improving profitability than increasing weaning weights.

(Source: Jim Gerrish, ‘Get the Hay Out’, available on YouTube. Google search ‘Get the hay out Jim Gerrish VT Forages’)

**Corn Grain and Corn Silage Variety Test Results**

<http://www.grains.cses.vt.edu/>



**Soybean Variety Test Results**

<http://www.arec.vaes.vt.edu/tidewater/soybean/VA-soybean-OVT-pdf.pdf>

Robert A. Clark  
 Senior Extension Agent  
 Agriculture and Natural Resources  
 Certified Professional Agronomist

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*If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services, or other accommodations to participate in these activities, please contact Robert A. Clark, Senior Extension Agent, Agriculture and Natural Resources, at the Shenandoah County Office of Virginia Cooperative Extension at (540) 459-6140/TDD\* during business hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to discuss accommodations five days prior to the event.*

*\*TDD number is (800) 828-1120.*

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