GeorgiaForages.com Forage Update

Summer 2013

A periodic email sent to forage producers and industry professionals.

Dr. Dennis Hancock, Forage Extension Specialist, University of Georgia

Read this email on the new GeorgiaForages Blog (http://georgiaforages.blogspot.com/).

Here are some HOT TOPICS and happenings on www.GeorgiaForages.com:

− New Look for GeorgiaForages.com Updates
− Latest! – Georgia Forage News
− Upcoming! – Georgia Grazing School (and Deep South Stocker Conference)
− My Latest Trip
− Potential Trip to New Zealand and Australia
− Now Open! – 2013 Southeastern Hay Contest
− Now Open! – 2013 Georgia Forages Photo Contest
− Upcoming! – Meeting Dates to Circle on Your Calendar

New Look for GeorgiaForages.com Updates

The last GF Update was sent via MailChimp, an online email blast service. I received a lot of positive feedback on the new format. I hope it makes the emails I send easier to read and navigate. If your email system doesn’t allow html emails, you can still click the link to view this email in plain text.

Latest! – Georgia Forage News

University of Georgia Extension has some of the best Extension Agents in the U.S.!
Some of the best examples can be found on our Forage Extension Team. They have co-written a newsletter series entitled Georgia Forage News. The latest edition (their second) addresses three major topics: 1) the bermudagrass stem maggot, 2) forage testing, and 3) harvest timing for corn silage. This is an outstanding newsletter! See: http://bit.ly/125doAy.

Upcoming! – Georgia Grazing School (and Deep South Stocker Conference)

The Georgia Grazing School returns! Last year, we were unable to make the Grazing School work because of variety of logistic and funding issues. This year, WE ARE BACK!!! and better than ever! In fact, this year, we have an extra-special treat.

Georgia splits hosting duties for the Deep South Stocker Conference with Mississippi and Alabama. This year, it is Georgia’s turn and we are planning on holding the 2013 Grazing School (August 7-8) in conjunction with the Deep South Stocker Conference (August 8-9)! This allows us to keep our costs low, do more hands-on programs, AND bring in some additional experts from around the country. Some examples include: 1) more extensive field exercises with sizing and allotting pasture for break-feeding; 2) a tour of UGA’s new Forage Garden, a display of the many and varied forages that can be grown in Georgia; 3) the latest developments in the world of
fencing, waterers, and pesticides; 4) a detailed fencing demonstration; 5) a look inside respiratory disease with a close-up examination of the effect it can have on lung and respiratory capacity; and 6) stockmanship and stewardship demonstrations by Curt Pate, one of the world’s leading trainers in safe and effective cattle handling. I just can’t tell you how excited I am to see this program come together!

For those who haven’t had a chance to attend one of our Grazing Schools… You REALLY NEED TO COME! The Georgia Grazing School is a two-day workshop that focuses on the benefits of management-intensive grazing. Training will take place in both classroom and field settings. We cover the system comprehensively, approaching from an understanding of soil fertility, forage crop selection/establishment, utilizing and optimizing plant growth, how to match animal nutrient needs with forage quality provided, and how the grazing system design can have an effect on all these elements.

The program costs $150 and includes lunches and breaks on each day, a nice dinner at the end of the program, a grazing school handbook, and a forage and weed ID handbook. For more information about this program, check out the Grazing School’s webpage here: http://bit.ly/125fxMw. Registration will be available online within the next few days, and I’ll send a separate announcement about that in the coming days.

My Latest Trip

If you are really a lover of forage management and are really into pasture-based livestock systems, then you’ll appreciate the enormity of my most recent trip… a trip to New Zealand! New Zealand is a small island nation in the South Pacific whose economy is extremely dependent upon their ability to efficiently and cost-effectively raise livestock on pasture. And they’ve gotten extremely good at it. In fact, they provide a lot of the most common pasture-based livestock technologies that we use today, including everything from electric fencing to animal genetics!

To tell you why I was in New Zealand recently, I need to give you a bit of backstory. Over the past 3 years, I have been cultivating several relationships with New Zealand agribusiness and trade authorities. Georgia has developed quite a reputation throughout the world (and especially in New Zealand) as a real “hot-spot” for growth in pasture-based livestock systems in general and dairying in particular. My networking has primarily been with the NZ Agribusiness Centre (a consortium of a diverse set of kiwi agribusiness) and NZ Trade & Enterprise (somewhat analogous to our U.S. Commerce Department).

My relationship with them has matured into a potential economic development opportunity for Georgia. Back in early May, I teamed up with Georgia’s Center for Innovation for Agribusiness and organized a program in Augusta and Waynesboro that highlights the opportunities for pasture-based livestock systems in Georgia and the Southeast. We connected the CEOs or representatives of approximately 9 major NZ companies with Georgia’s Department of Economic Development and the local development authorities in that region. These companies have already decided to expand their business into North, Central, and South America and are currently deciding on whether to locate those jobs in Georgia or in one other state. Our goal is to get those jobs here! Only time will tell if our “sales pitch” was effective, but pasture-
based livestock production in Georgia and the SE U.S. was definitely of key interest to them when I made my recent return trip to NZ. I think we made an overwhelming case to support these jobs coming to Georgia! I’m anxious to see it come to fruition.

**Potential Trip to New Zealand and Australia**

A few months back, I mentioned my desire to take a group of producers and ag industry service providers on a trip to New Zealand in September. While in New Zealand earlier this month, I had the great opportunity to begin to finalize an AgriTour there.

We are still working out the details, but the plan is to arrive in Auckland, NZ on Monday September 9th and tour Auckland, Hamilton and the Waikato Region (the center of the major pasture-based livestock industries in NZ), Rotorua (a site of several interesting items of agritourism interest and one of the major cultural centers of New Zealand’s indigenous peoples, the Maori), and a few other tourist attractions. The AgriTour will conclude on Saturday, September 14th.

More details on this trip, the cost, and travel information will be forthcoming in a couple more weeks (hopefully). Until then, go make sure your passport is current or if you don’t have one, begin the process of getting one. This AgriTour will be an incredible adventure. Trust me… you are going to want to be on this trip!

**Now Open! - 2013 Southeastern Hay Contest**

Just a reminder!!! Enter your hay or baleage samples into the 2013 Southeastern Hay Contest and compete with other Southeastern producers for the title of Best in Class! For more information about the contest, including a link to the rules and entry form, visit: [http://bit.ly/WBJlza](http://bit.ly/WBJlza).

**Now Open! - 2013 Georgia Forages Photo Contest**

Just a reminder!!! Enter your forage photos into the 2013 Georgia Forages Photo Contest (see: [http://bit.ly/WBJyCu](http://bit.ly/WBJyCu).) The purpose of the contest is to recognize, through photography, the multi-faceted uses of forages in Georgia. This contest is open to anyone who would like to share their photos with the Georgia Forages community. There is no entry fee for participating in this contest. Entrants can submit color digital photo files to Dr. Dennis Hancock, UGA Forage Extension Specialist by merely emailing the entry to Dr. Hancock. The entry form used last year is NOT needed. However, Dr. Hancock will follow up with you after receiving the photo to confirm entry and obtain any further information.

Entries will be placed into one of six categories. The **photo categories include:**

- a. Harvested Forages
- b. Grazing
- c. Education
- d. Wildlife and Conservation
- e. Troubleshooting (e.g., nutrient deficiencies, diseases, etc.)
- f. Open
Entries must be received by October 1st. Winners will be selected by the UGA Forage Extension Agent Team and will be announced on October 15th, at the beginning of the Sunbelt Ag Expo. Certificates will be awarded for the best photos. The top 3 photos in each category will be enlarged and displayed at the Sunbelt Ag Expo at the “Ask the Expert” booth in the Livestock Pavilion. Photo entries will also be posted to a website for public viewing. Entrants do not have to attend the Expo to participate in the Photo Contest.

Credit will be given to the photographer and the photographer will retain all rights to their entry (i.e., for sale, duplication, or use other than publicly displaying the entry for the purposes of the contest).

Upcoming! – Meeting Dates to Circle on Your Calendar

There are several meetings coming up in the next few weeks and months that I want to make sure you have on your calendar. Here are the dates/times, meeting name, and location. For more, see: [http://bit.ly/ZoXnVI](http://bit.ly/ZoXnVI).

Sunbelt Ag Expo Field Day
Jul. 11, 7:15 a.m - Lunch | Sunbelt Agricultural Expo | Moultrie, GA

Hay Day (hay equipment demonstration day)
Aug. 6 | Lamar Co.

Georgia Grazing School
August 7-8 | Watkinsville, GA

Deep South Stocker Conference
Aug. 8-9 | Watkinsville, GA

22nd International Grassland Congress
Sep. 15-19, 2013 | Sydney, Australia

SE Hay Contest
Oct. 15-17, 2013 | in Conjunction with the Sunbelt Agricultural Expo | Moultrie, GA

Sunbelt Agricultural Expo's: Forage-Based Livestock Management Seminars, and “Ask the Expert” Booths
Oct. 15-17, 2013 | Moultrie, GA

If you have a forage-related question, check out our website at [www.georgiaforages.com](http://www.georgiaforages.com), talk with your county Extension Agent by dialing 1-800-ASK-UGA1, or send an email to me at [dh Hancock@uga.edu](mailto:dh Hancock@uga.edu).

Regards,

Dennis W. Hancock, PhD
Forage Extension Specialist