

## Kentucky Grazing Schools

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Kentucky is one of 14 states now conducting “Grazing Schools.” The Kentucky Grazing School is patterned after the very successful Missouri school. Support from all sponsors has been excellent. Participation and encouragement from students has been overwhelming.

Two three-day schools are offered each year (Figure 1). The spring school is usually held in the central part of the state, and the fall school is usually in the western part. The school features both classroom and field activities. Field activities include plant identification, estimating pasture yield, fence building, paddock design, water development, and many other related topics. The school is so popular, the overall program has been expanded to offer one-day schools (Figure 2) in several locations throughout the state.

Registration - Since schools usually fill up quickly, pre-registration is required. This is especially important for the three-day schools so necessary arrangements can be made for food, refreshments, and facilities. Registration for the three-day schools is \$125 administered through the Kentucky Forage & Grassland Council and includes two meals, breaks and refreshments, a grazing notebook, copy of “Southern Forages” and plant identification publication. Cost for the one-day school is \$20.00 and includes lunch, breaks and refreshments along with educational materials.

The Spring 2000 version of the 3-day Kentucky Grazing School was held in April at Springfield. Participants could elect to attend one, two or all three days. Registration was \$20.00 per day and included meals, break and refreshments, “Southern Forages” book, grazing notebook and other educational materials. The reduced individual registration was possible through a Value-Added Grant from the Kentucky Department of Agriculture.

The success of these schools is a result of the need, interest, and opportunities for grazing throughout the state. A team of dedicated individuals has worked harmoniously to develop, refine, and improve the Kentucky Grazing Schools. Members of this team include representatives from University of Kentucky, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Kentucky Department of Agriculture, Kentucky Forage & Grassland Council, Kentucky Cattlemen’s Association, and the livestock/agricultural industry.

**Figure 1. Agenda, topics and speakers for the three-day schools.**

<b>Day 1: Pasture Growth, Assessment and Management</b>	
8:00	Registration
8:30	Growth of Grasses and Legumes and Their Response to Grazing - Jimmy Henning
9:15	Grazing Traditional Forages - Garry Lacefield
9:45	Where Do Non-Traditional Forages Fit - Jimmy Henning

10:15	Break
10:30	Understanding the Endophyte of Tall Fescue - Garry Lacefield and Jimmy Henning
11:15	Meeting Nutritional Needs on Pasture - Donna Amaral-Phillips
Noon	Lunch
1:00	Temporary Fencing and Chargers for Effective Grazing - Buddy Rowlett
1:30	Portable/seasonal Watering Systems - Kevin Laurent
2:15	Magic Numbers in Grazing - Jimmy Henning
3:00	Building Mini-systems in the field: Assessing pasture yield and setting up small paddocks to carry 3 stockers for 2 days, using temporary fence and water systems - Buddy Rowlett
5:00	Fence Building: Understanding how to build and use high tensile fencing - Buddy Rowlett
6:30	Supper

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### **Day 2: Grazing System Management, Layout and Design**

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8:00	Registration
8:30	Establishment of Forages in Pasture Systems - Jimmy Henning
9:15	Managing for the Maximum Grazing Season: Forage Considerations - Garry Lacefield
10:00	Break
10:15	The Value of Manure and Nutrient Cycling in Grazing Systems - Monroe Rasnake
10:45	Using Filter Fabric for Mud Control - Ken Johnson
11:15	Using Grazing Systems to Meet Water Quality Guidelines - David Stipes
11:45	Lunch
12:45	Weed Control in Grazing Systems - J. D. Green
1:30	Pasture Assessment in the Field: Weed Identification plus Observing Paddocks After One Days Grazing - JD Green, Jimmy Henning, Garry Lacefield and all instructors
3:30	Costs and Specifications of Fencing Materials - Larry Turner
4:00	Value of Shade and Water - John Johns
4:30	System Layout and Design - Jimmy Henning
5:30	Supper
6:30	Open Discussion

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### **Day 3: Cattle Management in Grazing Systems**

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8:00	Registration
8:30	Managing Grazing Systems for the Maximum Grazing Season: Animal Considerations- John Johns
9:00	Delivering Extra Nutrition to Grazing Animals - Roy Burris
9:45	Break
10:15	Minerals for grazing cattle - John Johns
11:00	Parasite Control and Rotational Grazing - Patty Scharko and John Johns
11:45	Lunch

12:30	Economics of Grazing Systems: How Does it Pay the Bills? - John Anderson
1:15	Animal Disorders on Pasture - Patty Scharko
1:45	Observing Pasture Systems: Field Exercise
3:00	Fecal Worm Exam Demonstration: Understanding the value and interpretation of fecal worm results -Patty Scharko
4:00	Adjourn

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**Figure 2. Agenda, topics and speakers for one-day schools.**

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8:30	Registration (Begins at 8:30 AM, Coffee and donuts provided)
9:00	How Grasses and Legumes Grow and How They Respond to Grazing? - Jimmy Henning
9:20	Which Forage Species Best Suit Your Operation? - Garry Lacefield
9:40	Putting Forages Together for the Maximum Grazing Season - Jimmy Henning
10:00	Break
10:20	Making Decisions About Your Forage System - Yield, Quality, Paddock Number and Size - Garry Lacefield
10:50	Utilizing Forages for Best Cattle Performance - Donna Amaral-Phillips
11:20	Parasites - Does Intensive Grazing Hurt or Help? - Patty Scharko
11:50	How Can the Kentucky Hay Testing Program Help My Forage Program? - Allen Johnson
Noon	Lunch (Provided)
1:00	What is the Value of Shade and Water in a Pasture System? - John Johns
1:20	How Do I Put in a Temporary Watering System? - Kevin Laurent
1:40	What are the Current Fencing Materials and Costs? - Larry Turner
2:00	How Should a System be Laid Out? - Larry Turner
2:20	Pasture Walk - All Instructors

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**Selected References**

Lacefield, G.D. 1999. Kentucky Grazing Schools - A Team Approach. GLCI News, Vol. 4, Number 6, Nov-Dec 1999.

Lacefield, G.D. 2000. Kentucky Grazing Schools. Cow Country News. Kentucky Cattlemen's Association Magazine. March 2000.

Henning, J.C. 2000. Special Version of 3-day Grazing School is Set for April 25-27. KFGC News, Vol. 18, Number 1, March 2000.

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