

The Forager

Fall 2014

IOWA
FORAGE AND
GRASSLAND
COUNCIL

900 Des Moines Street // Des Moines, IA 50309 // Phone: 515-262-8323 // Fax: 515-262-8960

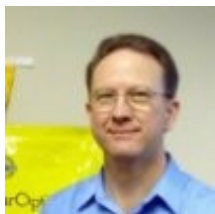
2014 IFGC Conference & Annual Meeting

The 2014 Iowa Forage and Grassland Conference will be held on November 25 at the Des Moines Airport Holiday Inn. The Iowa Forage and Grassland Council strives to provide timely information to Iowa's forage and grassland producers. Registration for this event will open at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday November 25, followed by the IFGC Annual Meeting. Make sure to check out IFGC online at iowaforage.org in upcoming weeks for event details as they are developed further.

Also, please encourage anyone interested in forage and grassland issues to attend. Hotel reservations may be made at 515-287-2400.

Keynote Speaker

This year's IFGC Conference keynote speaker is Dr. Peter Ballerstedt, forage product manager at Barenbrug USA. Ballerstedt received his Ph. D. in Forage Management and Utilization from the University of Kentucky.



Dr. Peter Ballerstedt has written numerous publications and articles and currently writes a blog focused on diet, health and human nutrition called "Grass Based Health." His areas of

expertise include forage production, utilization and forage-based livestock production systems and their role in human nutrition. In his presentation at lunch, he will discuss Beef: The REAL Health Food. After lunch, Dr. Ballerstedt will talk about modern forage grasses and other species.

Conference Agenda Tuesday, Nov 25, 2014

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| 8:00 - 9 a.m. | Registration |
| 9:00 - 9:15 a.m. | IFGC Annual Meeting |
| 9:15 - 10 a.m. | Benefits of Forage & Grasslands with Water Quality
<i>Bruce Trautman - Iowa DNR</i> |
| 10:00 - 10:30 a.m. | Break - Visit with Exhibitors |
| 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. | Breakout Session #1
1.) Double Grazing with Sheep and Cattle
<i>Harry Cope - Truxton, Missouri</i>
2.) Cover Crop Mixes, Benefits and Advantages
<i>Joe Graber - Timberline Sales and Service, Kalona, IA</i> |
| 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. | LUNCH
Keynote Speaker: Dr. Peter Ballerstedt - Barenbrug USA
"Forages Make Meat, Meat is Medicine" |
| 1:00 - 1:45 p.m. | Breakout Session #2
1) Cover Crops - Use in Forage and Livestock Systems
Panel: David Otte - Green Valley Seed
<i>Harry Cope - Truxton, Missouri</i>
<i>Joe Graber - Timberline Sales and Service, Kalona, IA</i>
2) Establishment & Management of Perennial Pastures
<i>Brian Lang - ISU Extension (Invited)</i> |
| 1:45 - 2 p.m. | Break - Visit with Exhibitors |
| 2:00 - 2:45 p.m. | Break Out -Session #3
1) Fertility & Fertilization - Getting the most out of your forage crops - Mark Carlton, ISU
2) Improvements in Forages - Peter Ballerstedt, Barenbrug USA |
| 3:00 p.m. | Adjourn |

Register today! See enclosed registration form for details.

New Members Sought for IFGC Governing Board

The Iowa Forage and Grassland Council (IFGC) is seeking new members for their board to help guide the organization in the next five years. The board is made up of volunteers from the forage industry, farming, academics and government agencies, all of which are interested in more and improved forages in Iowa. The board meets four times each year and hosts an annual educational conference in November. Other council activities include sponsoring field days and other educational activities.

For additional information or to offer to serve on the IFGC board please contact IFGC Secretary, Joan O'Brien at 515-262-8323 or email joano@agribiz.org.

Iowa Certified Grazier Program

Experienced Iowa graziers and others looking to upgrade their forage management programs should join the Certified Grazier program. This is the third year Certified Grazier classes will be held in Iowa. Past participants in the Greenhorn Grazing series, or other in-depth grazing programs, will benefit from this "next level" programming. The program will include both classroom and in the field sessions.

Informational sessions discuss different management strategies and how to apply them to participants' land. Personalized sessions provide detailed information on specific topics that can be incorporated into producers' grazing plans. Networking gives participants the chance to discuss different strategies with producers and to develop a plan tailored to their resources and goals. Practical experience allows producers to see actual on-farm results of the management techniques. Mentoring works to build relationships between participants and experienced graziers as well as university and industry personnel to develop productive, cost-effective grazing systems.

The eastern Iowa site for 2014 Certified Grazier final programs in 2014 will be in Maquoketa on **November 13 and December 9, 2014**. The sessions will run from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, with part of the day scheduled in the classroom and part in the field.

There is a \$100 registration fee which includes a meal at each of the six sessions, participation in a Gerrish workshop, and a reference guide. For more information or to register, contact Denise Schwab at 319-472-4739 or email dschwab@iastate.edu or go to the iowabeefcenter.org website.

Fiber Digestibility Test Recommended for Midwest

Wet, cool weather this year as well as leaf disease has decreased forage feed quality over last year. Local forage-analysis reports that the area is below its normal according to forage specialists. Midwest producers are encouraged this year to have their hay crops tested for fiber digestibility. Since leaf development was stunted by 2014 weather alfalfa leaves dropped below the normal of 40-45%.

There less fiber in the livestock feed reduces milk production and weight gain. Lower quality of hay makes for low prices, but with the reduced nutrition levels due to low digestibility, feeding livestock will need more attention paid to rations by nutritionist.

Higher quality and lower quality hay is selling at relatively high disparity with a gap this big not seen in years. Milk prices this fall and winter will play a large role in dairy quality hay prices.



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