

## Hay & Forage Expo Announces New Name And Location For 2014

# Hay & Forage

# expo 2014

## June 25 & 26, 2014 • Boone, Iowa

Penton Farm Progress' Hay & Forage Expo (formally the Hay Expo) announces its new name and alliance with *Hay & Forage Grower* magazine. The 2014 event is set for June 25 and 26 in Boone, Iowa at the Central Iowa Expo. The Central Iowa Expo is also the location for the 2014 Farm Progress Show.

### New name

Hay & Forage Expo presents the industry's latest technology and adding the word "forage" to its name fully recognizes the significance of forage production techniques and technology at the show.

### Central Iowa Expo to host show

The exhibit field and parking for the Hay & Forage Expo is located within the Central Iowa Expo facilities and all field demonstrations are located on

the alfalfa acreage that will be used as parking lots during the 2014 Farm Progress Show to be held in August. Improvements have been underway at the site since its 2012 show, including paving the streets.

"We are excited to bring the Hay & Forage Expo back to Boone. The facilities and services available to the visitors and exhibitors make it a great location to host the show. And everyone gets a "sneak peek" at the new paved roads throughout the event site and additional improvements," said Matt Jungmann, Farm Progress national events manager.

### Latest technology and field demonstrations

Visitors to this 28th annual event get exclusive access to the latest hay and forage technology with an extensive exhibit field and working demonstrations conducted throughout each day.

"The Hay & Forage Expo offers the perfect combination of field demonstrations and ag product displays. The exhibit field is the place to discuss seed, hay marketing, crop production, conservation and more," notes Jungmann.

A new name and alliance for Penton Farm Progress' 2014 Hay & Forage Expo launches the industry's only two-day event into its 28th annual show set for June 25 and 26 in Boone, Iowa.

Working field demonstrations are a highlight of the Hay & Forage Expo. The two-day hay extravaganza showcases mowing, conditioning, tedding, merging, baling, hay handling and silage demonstrations on alfalfa acreage. Visitors will be able to compare the various equipment brands operating side-by-side under actual field conditions.

A 10-acre exhibit field highlights displays from the major and shortline specialty manufacturers, seed, building and storage facility suppliers, and a range of related product suppliers. Exhibitors plan to present a multitude of products aimed at boosting farmers' efficiency and profitability for their hay and forage production.

### Hay & Forage Grower alliance

The event is sponsored by Penton Farm Progress' *Hay & Forage Grower*, *Wallaces Farmer*, *Wisconsin Agriculturist* and *The Farmer* publications.

"*Hay & Forage Grower* is proud to lend its name to this prestigious event that offers forage-equipment manufacturers the opportunity to strut their stuff and growers the chance to see so many machines in action," says Fae Holin, *Hay & Forage Grower* editor. Visit [www.HayandForage.com](http://www.HayandForage.com) for more *Hay & Forage Grower* content and information.

### Plan to attend

The 2014 Hay & Forage Expo is set to be held June 25 and 26 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The show site is located off of Highway 30, east of Boone, Iowa, at Central Iowa Expo. Admission is free; parking is \$10 per vehicle. The public is welcome. For more information, visit [www.HayExpo.com](http://www.HayExpo.com) or call 866-264-7469.



# The Forager

Spring 2014

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## Follow six tips for cost-effective weed control

By: Brant Mettler, Range & Pasture/ Vegetation Management Specialist, Dow AgroSciences, [bcmettler@dow.com](mailto:bcmettler@dow.com)

Herbicides are most cost-effective when used at the right rate at the right time. To get the most benefit from your pasture weed spraying, Dow AgroSciences field scientists offer these six tips:

**1. Identify the weed problem.** Your choice of herbicides and recommended application rates will vary by weed species and timing. For most broadleaf weeds, ForeFront<sup>®</sup> HL herbicide does a great job. But Chaparral<sup>™</sup> herbicide controls some species — including wild carrot, goldenrod, buckbrush and blackberry — better. Consult your ag-chem dealer or local Dow AgroSciences Range & Pasture Specialist for a specific, local recommendation matched to your situation.

**2. Use a calibrated sprayer or a professional applicator.** Calibration prevents both waste and expense of overapplication and reduced control from under application. It's the only way to get the result you want and your money's worth. Don't guess.

**3. Spray at the right time with the right rate.** Annual weeds in pastures are generally most susceptible early in the season when they're small and growing actively, and when soil moisture is adequate. Using the above-mentioned ForeFront HL or Chaparral at the highest labeled rate will provide longer soil residual activity to control weeds that germinate *after* spraying. You can get several weeks' control of many weed species by using the right rate at the right time.

**4. Recognize that drought-stressed or mature weeds will be more difficult to control.** Effectiveness will be reduced if weeds don't have adequate moisture and aren't growing. Mature weeds have already limited your grass production. Don't spray unless you're willing to accept less control.

**5. Follow label directions for application and mixing.** For ground broadcast, apply the recommended rate of herbicide in 10 to 20 gallons of total spray mixture per acre. Use the recommended rate of an agricultural surfactant to thoroughly wet the foliage. Consider a drift control additive to reduce drift and improve deposition.

**6. Remember soil residual activity and plant residue.** Although residual may provide season-long control of weeds in permanent grass pasture, they should not be used on cropland or on land that could be rotated to crops. Remember, too, grasses treated with any soil residual herbicide may carry herbicide residue that can be transferred to the soil by hay, livestock manure or urine. Be sure to read and observe all label precautions.

## When to Graze Spring Pastures

By: Joe Sellers, Extension Forage Specialist, Iowa State University, [sbarnhar@iastate.edu](mailto:sbarnhar@iastate.edu)

After a long snowy winter, it is very tempting to get cows turned out to pasture as soon as possible. Some folks actually graze stockpile grass all winter, and just continue grazing as pastures get new growth. Many others will transition from stored feeds to growing grass. How you manage this transition can impact season long forage production.

What type of forage, and how much you rotate pastures, will have an impact on when you initiate grazing. Nearly 50% of yearlong production on our cool season grass pastures occurs in the spring. You want to maximize utilization while setting things up for production later in the year.

There are several issues that impact how soon you should graze. Grazing cool season grasses prior to the emergence of the third leaf can reduce productivity later in the year. Quick rotations of multiple paddocks can allow you to start earlier while still protecting plant growth. Grass in pastures with newly introduced legumes need to be grazed to reduce competition and shading of new seedlings. Fescue pastures generally should be grazed earlier and more intensively to keep the plants vegetative and reduce stem and seed head production.

You may want to graze pastures that had more rest last fall earlier, and give pastures that were grazed harder more time to recover. There may be some pastures with poorly drained soils that require you to manage around heavy spring rains and muddy conditions.

Dr. Steve Barnhart, who recently retired from Iowa State University, developed an excellent publication that looks at plant growth of grasses and legume – “How pasture plants grow”, PM 1791. You can download a PDF version of this and other forage pubs, at the ISU Extension and Outreach publications listings, at this site - <http://store.extension.iastate.edu/Topic/Crops/Pasture-and-Forage>

Another issue with spring grazing is potential problems with grass tetany. This condition is caused by an imbalance of mineral content in the forage – high levels of potassium and low levels of magnesium, and in some cases calcium. It is the biggest problem when grasses grow very fast, as in the typical spring time period of rapid growth. Higher levels of nitrogen fertilization may increase growth and widen the K:MG imbalances, while more diverse pastures with lots of legumes may have less trouble. Cow nursing young calves are most at risk for grass tetany and related mineral issues. To prepare cattle for potential shortages of magnesium, producers may want to feed a “High Mag” mineral. Most feed companies offer a product that will be palatable and supply higher levels of magnesium to reduce the risk of grass tetany. This mineral should be offered 30 days prior to grazing, through the early spring period of rapid grass growth.

Consult with your veterinarian about grass tetany and other health issues for grazing cattle. This publication provides a more detailed discussion on grass tetany.

<http://www.iowabeefcenter.org/Beef%20Cattle%20Handbook/Grass-Tetany.pdf>

## IFGC Education Grant Program

Hosting a Pasture Walk? Need some help to cover costs? IFGC is here to help!

Members of IFGC needing help to cover costs of food, refreshments, materials, speaker expenses, or similar items can apply for IFGC funding. Up to \$100 per event is possible.

Get an application by visiting your local NRCS or Extension Office, or by contacting Mark Fehseke at: 418 S Franklin ST, Corydon, Iowa 50060 or [dibbikim@yahoo.com](mailto:dibbikim@yahoo.com).

## Follow six tips for cost-effective weed control

By: Brant Mettler, Range & Pasture/ Vegetation Management Specialist, Dow AgroSciences, [bcmettler@dow.com](mailto:bcmettler@dow.com)

Almost no one argues against clover in pastures. The legume just has too many benefits, improving both soil fertility and animal performance.

Unless, that is, you can't see the forage for the weeds.

Then if zeal to save the clover keeps you from spraying a significant weed problem, Kevin Bradley respectfully will suggest that the grazing lost to weed pressure might outweigh the benefits of the clover.

Spraying usually takes out the clover, at least for a season, concedes the University of Missouri weed scientist. But clover can also be replaced after a weed problem is under control.

Bradley knows cows prefer to graze clean grass versus a weedy mixed pasture. He's studied grazing preferences when cows could choose.

In a series of trials, Bradley fitted cows with GPS collars that recorded when and where cows actively grazed. After establishing a baseline of their grazing patterns in a particular pasture, he sprayed half the pasture and documented changes in their grazing.

### Weeds and grazing preference

Before he sprayed his Albany, Mo., site, cattle grazed the weedy 90 acres of fescue and clover evenly. Then for a month after he sprayed half the pasture, their grazing remained evenly distributed. But as treated weeds died and untreated weeds grew larger, preferences changed.

For the next three months, cows grazed the treated half of the pasture 73 to 84 percent of the time. Averaged across the grazing season, cows grazed the treated pasture 74 percent of the time, versus 26 percent on the untreated side.

The cows clearly preferred clean fescue to a mix of weeds, fescue and clover. Forage yields also were higher in the treated side.

“In a lot of our sites, on our untreated side where we didn't spray a herbicide, the weed component of that total yield was 50 percent or more,” Bradley says.

So how bad do weeds have to be to justify spraying for weed control that will also sacrifice the clover?

That's tough to pinpoint because of all the variables, Bradley says. But it's probably *before* weeds reach 50 percent of pasture production by weight, he says. “Although there's very little research that's been done in this area, it's very likely that the threshold is well below that level.”

### Weeds out, clover back

Of course, few producers will take and weigh clippings as Bradley did. If you estimate pasture composition by eyeballing the canopy, it won't take 50 percent weed canopy to equal 50 percent of pasture production by weight.

“If you see 50 percent of a given area in weeds, then probably more than 50 percent of the harvested forage will be weeds,” he says.

When weed density is significant, spraying presents a real opportunity to improve productivity, Bradley says.

When weeds are bad, he recommends solving the weed problem and then bringing back the clover. Many soils will have a native supply of seed that will produce a year after you stop spraying. Or you can spend a few dollars and seed new clover into the system.

From there, the key is keeping a canopy to shade the weed seed in the soil and keep it from germinating.

“As long as we're maintaining good health and vigor of the fescue through good fertility and good grazing management, you can likely go years without having weeds germinate again,” he says.