

The Forager

FALL 2016

IOWA
FORAGE AND
GRASSLAND
COUNCIL

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

IFGC Annual Meeting
January 19-20, 2017
ISU Alumni Center,
Ames

AFGC Annual Meeting
January 22-24, 2017
Hotel Roanoke and
Conference Center
Roanoke, VA

SAVE THE DATE! 2017 IFGC Conference

The 2017 Iowa Forage and Grassland Conference will be held on January 19-20, 2017 at the ISU Alumni Center in Ames. The Iowa Forage and Grassland Council strives to provide timely information to Iowa's forage and grassland producers.

The annual two day conference offers IFGC members great learning sessions and networking opportunities.

You don't want to miss the catered dinner Thursday night and the IFGC annual meeting on Friday! Friday offers additional speakers and our member 2017 Livestock/Producer Award.

In 2016 the IFGC board of directors updated the format of the conference to give IFGC members more opportunities to participate in grazing and forage discussions by holding the conference at the ISU Alumni Center immediately before the Practical Farmers of Iowa (PFI) conference in Ames. Please encourage anyone interested in forage and grassland issues to attend.

Save the date for another great conference:

**IFGC Annual Conference
January 19-20, 2017**

Learning Grants Available for IFGC Members

Your IFGC education committee is continuing to fund the education grants program through 2016 and in 2017.

This program is designed to assist with funding forage education activities in Iowa. A common use of the education grant program is helping to fund refreshments at pasture walks and field days.

We would like to tell you about the 2016 events IFGC provided grants* to, see below:

Van Buren County Pasture Walk
September 7, 2016
Keosauqua, IA

**Pasture Tours at the ISU Animal
Science Teaching Farms**
July 21 & July 28, 2016
Ames, IA

Lucas County Hay Bale Art Contest
Sept/October 2016
Chariton, IA

**Beginning Farmer & Rancher
Development Program**
August 4, 2016
Knoxville, IA

Grass Roots Grazing
April 14, 2016
Mount Pleasant, IA

**The IFGC education grant program funds multiple projects each year. Hundreds of people attend these IFGC sponsored events each year.*

The applicant or applicant's organization must be a member of IFGC to be eligible and must be approved for funding prior to the event. Approved events may submit bills for reimbursement up to a maximum of \$100 per event.

If you have a forage-based educational event coming up this year and need funding assistance submit your application by contacting Pat Wall at 515-450-7665 or via email patwall@iastate.edu.





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Using Cover Crops as a Forage Source: Herbicide Restrictions Awareness

by: Rebecca Vittetoe, ISU Extension Field Agronomist,
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Cover crops have become quite popular in recent years, not only for conservation purposes and soil health, but they are also being looked at as an additional forage source.

However, there may be limitations if the cover crop can be grazed or used as a forage source due to what previous herbicides have been applied to the field. It is important for producers to look at and follow the rotation restrictions listed on the herbicide label.

Additionally, just because a specific cover crop species is not listed on the herbicide label does not mean the cover crop can legally be grazed or fed. In these instances most herbicide labels usually have an "all other crops" or "all others" that producers should use and follow those restriction intervals, which are typically 12 to 18 months after the herbicide has been applied. Please refer to the specific herbicide label.

It can be frustrating looking up all these herbicide labels just to find out they have a restriction on them for grazing or feeding cover crops. To help provide some guidance for farmers, ISU Extension and Outreach worked on putting together a bulletin, "Herbicide use may restrict grazing options for cover crops," that lists herbicides that have acceptable restriction intervals where cover crops can be grazed or used as a forage source.

The list is not all comprehensive, but is meant to help provide producers with a starting point. The bulletin can be found at: <http://store.extension.iastate.edu/Product/Herbicide-use-may-restrict-grazing-options-for-cover-crops>.

If you are planning to feed or graze a cover crop you plan to plant this fall, please go back and check herbicide labels to make sure it is legal to do so. If you have any questions, please contact your local Extension Field Agronomist.



Photo by Rebecca Vittetoe

Cereal rye cover crop planted last fall (2015) at the ISU McNay Research Farm as part of a research project looking at grazing cover crops. Understanding limitations herbicide restrictions can have on grazing cover crops or using them as a forage source is important.



Controlling Perennial & Biennial Weeds in the Fall

by: Jamie Baumgardner, Range & Pasture/Vegetation Management Specialist, Dow AgroSciences LLC

“For many reasons – and many weed species – now is a good and important time to manage undesirable plants in rangeland and pastures”, says Pat Burch, Dow AgroSciences field scientist. “Forage grasses and other desirable plants need this time to recover from the grazing season, and they can do that better and more quickly without competition from the weeds.”

Fall is a good time to treat pastures for other reasons, too. Although there’s always plenty of work to be done, you – and custom applicators – likely have a bit more time, compared to the busy spring. Biennial and perennial weeds remain active and susceptible to herbicides even past the first frost. By then, most sensitive crops are harvested, and many desirable plants are dormant reducing the risk of injury.

Fall applications perform well because the herbicide moves from the foliage to the roots along with the plant’s winter food reserves. In the spring, carbohydrates move from the roots to the leaves, so less downward herbicide movement occurs.

“Treatments often produce better results on several species during the fall. And that means a better return on your herbicide investment,” Burch says, pointing to these species as some of the best targets for fall weed control:

- Biennial weeds: bull, musk and plumeless thistles, and wild carrot
- Perennial weeds: Canada thistle, dandelion, and leafy spurge

“Treatment can begin as soon as the new growth appears and can continue right up through the first frost,” he notes.

The table below offers recommendations for several common fall weed targets. For additional information please visit www.RangeAndPasture.com.

Fall treatment recommendations	
Product	Target Species/Application Rates
GrazonNext® HL herbicide <i>Superior residual broadleaf weed control for pastures and rangeland.</i>	1.5 pints per acre: Biennial thistles (bull, musk, plumeless and Scotch), common chickweed, henbit
	2.1 pints per acre: Canada thistle, spotted knapweed
Chaparral™ herbicide <i>The broadest-spectrum weed and brush control available for rangeland, pastures and other noncrop areas.</i>	2 ounces per acre: Biennial thistles (musk, bull and plumeless), common chickweed, henbit
	3.3 ounces per acre: Canada thistle, spotted knapweed, sericea lespedeza
Graslan® L herbicide <i>The best option for reclaiming grazing land lost to leafy spurge.</i>	Leafy spurge: Broadcast — 2.5 to 5 pints per acre
	Two to three annual treatments are necessary for control; be sure to treat at least two consecutive years. Reapply when level of control falls below 80 percent.
Tordon® 22K herbicide <i>Stop emerging leafy spurge patches before they establish.</i>	Leafy spurge: Spot — 2 to 4 quarts per acre
	Use the higher rate in the rate range for older patches or inaccessible areas. New patches often establish on the perimeter of the main infestation. They must be eliminated to contain the spread. Treat 15 feet beyond infested area.



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