

Spring Forage Conference set for March 1 in Springfield

The 23rd annual Southwest Missouri Spring Forage Conference will be Thursday, March 1, 2007 at the University Plaza Hotel in Springfield. Each year this conference attracts an increasing number of people interested in learning more about management strategies for forages and livestock.

This year's keynote speaker will be Dr. Garry Lacefield. Garry has been a University of Kentucky Extension Forage Specialist since 1974. He provides statewide leadership in forage management, production, and utilization. Dr. Lacefield is well known throughout the country and the world for his extensive knowledge of managing forages, as evident in the number of awards, publications, articles, and lectures. His topic for the noon luncheon is called "Forage Improvement: Results Require Investment".

The conference will also feature several breakout sessions both in the morning and the afternoon. Topics will include: native warm-season grass pasture, weed and brush control, forage fertility alternatives, New Zealand grazing concepts, weather outlook, herd health, alternative marketing, planning your grazing system, urban and rural interface, low stress weaning techniques, and dung beetles. There will be a question-and-answer session with Dr. Lacefield in the afternoon. More than 30 companies and organizations will have exhibits, and will have representatives available to discuss their products and services.

Conference registration begins at 8 a.m., with sessions running from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The cost is \$25 per person in advance or \$35 at the door. A catered meal is included. To pre-register (by February 22nd) or to get more information, contact the Greene County Soil and Water Conservation District at (417) 831-5246, extension 3. Conference information and a registration form are also available on the Internet at <http://agebb.missouri.edu/sfc>.

The conference is co-sponsored by several southwest Missouri Soil and Water Conservation Districts, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Missouri State University, University of Missouri Extension, MU Southwest Center, Missouri Department of Conservation, and the USDA Farm Service Agency.

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