

Forage Conference Will Educate Producers about Grazing Practices
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Media; Contact Michael Sutphin by phone at (540) 231-6975 or by e-mail at msutphin@vt.edu

BLACKSBURG, VA, December 11, 2006 -- Virginia Cooperative Extension and the Virginia Forage and Grassland Council will explore the theme, "Profitable Pastures: Extending Grazing" at this year's winter forage conference, January 23-25. Producers will learn how to increase their profits by extending the time livestock feed on forages.

The conference will be repeated on Monday, January 23, at the Armory in Suffolk, VA; Tuesday, January 24, at Central Virginia Community College in Lynchburg, VA; and Wednesday, January 25, at the Southwest Virginia 4-H Center in Abingdon, VA. Registration will begin at 8 a.m., and events will end at 3:30 p.m.

"Beef producers will gain skills and knowledge of economical ways to manage pastures that will result in reduction of costs by extending the grazing and reducing use of expensive stored feeds or purchased grains," said Gordon Groover, Extension farm management specialist at Virginia Tech, who will discuss the cost of hay for grazing operations at the conference. "Farmers will also gain knowledge about beef marketing and practical knowledge of marketing their calves."

Researchers, producers, and government officials will present at the conference on a wide range of topics:

- Bill West, a successful beef producer in Ripley, WV, will share his experiences with year-round grazing.
- Emmit Rawls, of the University of Tennessee, will discuss the cow-calf cycle and the importance of forages for these animals.
- Jim Cropper, of the Natural Resource and Conservation Service in Greensboro, NC, will explain how controlled grazing affects soil ecology.
- Patrick Cook, the small game project leader for the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, will present information about wildlife damage to livestock.
- Robert Shoemaker, of the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, will discuss his concept of beef production that revolves around year-round rotational grazing systems with limited inputs.
- Lewis Sapp, of Salem, NC, who worked for Gallagher Power Fence for 25 years, will be discussing cost-effective fencing for grazing systems.

The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation supports the conference. The early registration fee is \$25 for Virginia Forage and Grassland Council members and \$35 for non-members. After the January 9 deadline for early registration, the fee is \$35 for Virginia Forage and Grassland Council members and \$45 for non-members.

For more information or to register for the conference, contact Margaret Kenny at mailto:makenny@vt.edu or (434) 292-5331.

PLEASE PRINT

Name

Address

City, State, Zip Code

Email

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Armory – Suffolk January 23, 2007

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Central VA Comm. College – Lynchburg January 24, 2007

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Southwest VA 4-H Center - Abingdon January 25, 2007

\$25.00 early signup VFGC member **(2 WEEKS PRIOR TO MEETINGS)**

\$35.00 early signup Non-member **(2 WEEKS PRIOR TO MEETINGS)**

\$35.00 late signup VFGC member

\$45.00 late signup Non-member

*Please make check payable to **VFGC***

Mail check and registration form to

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Margaret J. Kenny

3599 Indian Oak Road

Crewe, VA 23930

Virginia Cooperative Extension brings the resources of Virginia's land-grant universities, Virginia Tech and Virginia State University, to the people of the commonwealth. Through a system of on-campus specialists and locally-based agents, it delivers education in the areas of agriculture and natural resources, family and consumer sciences, community viability, and 4-H youth development. With a network of faculty at two universities, 107 county and city offices, 13 agricultural research and extension centers, and six 4-H educational centers, Virginia Cooperative Extension provides solutions to the problems facing Virginians today.

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This news release was written by Casey Marstaller, student intern for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.