Conference Features Latest Research On Toxic Fescue Management

LITTLE ROCK, ARK.

Fescue is a livestock forage mainstay in Arkansas, Missouri and much of the southeastern U.S., but the endophyte fungus that lives inside most of that fescue causes millions of dollars of lost production in livestock.

New research and recommendations for managing fungal-infected fescue by the University of Arkansas and USDA will be presented at the Arkansas Fescue Management Conference, set for Thursday, Aug. 25 at the Durand Center in Harrison.

"Topics will include what fescue endophyte is really doing inside your cattle, new novel endophyte fescue varieties from Arkansas, and effects of fescue on breeding bulls and thin cows," said John Jennings, professor-forage, for the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture.

Also on the agenda are:

• The impact of using clover to dilute fescue toxicity

• Comparisons of KY-31 fescue with wheat and novel fescue for stocker calf growth

• Differences between spring and fall calving on KY-31 fescue, and whether adding a novel endophyte fescue variety will help beef cattle production

Along with the research, a set of recommendations will be presented for incorporating the findings into management practices for the farm, Jennings said.

Conference registration cost is $10 per person and includes dinner and conference materials. All persons interested in forages are invited to attend. Pre-registration is not required, but calling in by August 18 will help with planning meals and materials. For more information on the conference or to pre-register, contact your county extension office or call Amoree McGowan at 501-671-2171.

The Durand Center is located at 303 N. Main, Harrison, Ark., on the center campus of North Arkansas College. Δ