

Learn About Native Forages During Evening Tours

Programs Offered At Different UT AgResearch Centers Across The State.

JACKSON, TENN.

Twilight tours featuring tips on managing native grasses for forage production will be offered at various University of Tennessee AgResearch Centers across the state in May and June. Presented by the UT Center for Native Grasslands Management, the tours will focus

<http://middletennessee.tennessee.edu/>
May 26 - Highland Rim AgResearch and Education Center, Springfield, Tenn.

<http://highlandrim.tennessee.edu/>
June 21 - Ames Plantation AgResearch and Education Center, Grand Junction, Tenn.

<http://www.amesplantation.org/>
June 30 - UT AgResearch and Education Cen-



on using native grasses such as big bluestem, switchgrass, and eastern gamagrass in a livestock forage program.

"These highly drought tolerant, long lasting, low input, warm-season perennials can produce high yields of hay and excellent animal performance when grazed during the summer," says Dr. Pat Keyser, director of the UT Center for Native Grasslands Management. "Yields can measure from 4 to 6 tons per acre and steers can gain an average 1.1 to 2.6 pounds daily when grazing these grasses."

Each tour will be held at a UT AgResearch and Education Center. Ongoing grazing trials will be visited and the latest results made available. Tours at all locations will begin at 5:30 p.m. local time with a grilled steak supper. After a brief presentation, the group will tour the native grass pastures with the researchers, extension specialists, and the Center staff managing the grazing projects. Topics to be discussed include:

- Establishing native grass forages
- Grazing management
- Hay production with native grasses
- Integrating forage and biofuel production
- Managing native grasses for forage and wildlife

The dates and tour locations are as follows:

May 24 - Middle Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center, Spring Hill, Tenn.

ter at Greeneville, Tenn.

<http://greeneville.tennessee.edu/>

There is no cost to attend a tour, but participants must register two weeks prior to the scheduled tour date. To register, please go online to <http://nativegrasses.utk.edu/>, and click on the link for "Forage Tours" on the home page. You may also register by e-mailing your name, affiliation (producer, business or agency name), and contact information (mailing address, phone, and if available, e-mail address) to mwright@utk.edu or by calling 865-974-7346 and providing that same information. You may register multiple individuals, but please provide the requested information for each.

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The UT Center for Grasslands Management is a program of the Department of Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries in the UT Institute of Agriculture. The UT Institute of Agriculture provides instruction, research and public service through the UT College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, the UT College of Veterinary Medicine, UT AgResearch, including its system of 10 research and education centers, and UT Extension offices in every county in the state. △