

Still Time To Register For The Tennessee Twilight Forage Tour

Registration extended to June 18

KNOXVILLE, TENN.

The University of Tennessee Center for Native Grasslands Management is hosting a Twilight Forage Tour for Native Grasses on June 21 near Knoxville. The tour, which will be held at UT East Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center's Blount Unit, will feature tips on using native grasses such as eastern gamagrass, big bluestem, and switchgrass in a livestock forage program.

Talks and field demonstrations will be given by UT AgResearch and UT Extension experts on topics including establishing native grass pastures, grazing management, and hay production.

Dr. Pat Keyser, director of the UT Center for Native Grasslands Management and coordinator for the event says last year's events helped many farmers learn first-hand about our native grasses and just how well they can perform for livestock.

Keyser says the native grasses are highly drought tolerant, long lasting, warm-season perennials and can produce high yields of hay and excellent animal performance when grazed during the summer. "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," he said.

Tours will begin at 5:30 p.m. EDT following a sponsored supper. After a brief presentation, the group will tour the research center's native grass pastures with the researchers, extension specialists, and the center staff managing the grazing projects.

There is no cost for the tour, but you must register by June 18 in order to attend. A previous registration deadline of June 11 has been extended to accommodate late registrants.

To register, please go online to <http://native-grasses.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 Kim Lane (kalane@utk.edu) or by calling 865-974-7201 and providing that same information. You may register multiple individuals, but please provide the requested information for each person.

The East Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center, Blount Unit, is located at 4341 UT Farm Road, in Louisville, Tenn., at the intersection of U.S. Hwy 129 (Alcoa Hwy) and Singleton Station Road. A map is available online at <http://east.tennessee.edu/location/>. Please call 865-974-7201 to request an accommodation for accessibility. Δ