

Alabama Forage and Grassland Coalition

Farm producers throughout Bibb County, Alabama, and the Southeast will have the opportunity on Thursday, December 10 to hear from national leaders in forage production at the 2009 Alabama Forage Conference, which will be held in Bibb Graves Auditorium at the University of West Alabama in Livingston.

Dr. Don Ball, Forage Agronomist for the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, promises that the conference will one of the best one-day forage conferences to held in the United States this year.

“Livestock producers will have an excellent chance to hear the latest research and information on forages and grazing management from some of the nation’s top authorities,” Ball said.

Presenters will include Dr. Susan Duckett of Clemson University, who will discuss the impact forages have on the meat quality of grass fed beef. Also presenting will be Dr. Joe Bouton, senior vice president with the Noble Foundation. The Noble Foundation is an independent, nonprofit institute headquartered in Ardmore, Oklahoma that conducts activities to enhance agricultural productivity regionally, nationally and internationally.

While he was at the University of Georgia, Bouton developed a number of important forage varieties. Bouton will discuss opportunities for farmers to learn about and utilize improved forage varieties.

The conference will cover many diverse aspects of forages and forage production. Jimmy Ray Parish, a researcher in plant and soil sciences at Mississippi State University, will talk about tall fescues of the future. Dr. John Byrd, a long-time Extension weed control specialist at Mississippi State, will offer participants insights into improved weed control in pastures.

As part of the conference, participants will be able to select from three concurrent sessions in the afternoon: one on clovers, another on equine issues and yet another targeting pest management.

Internationally-known forage crop agronomists Dr. Garry Lacefield from the University of Kentucky and Dr. Gerald Evers from Texas A & M University will lead the session on clovers.

The conference will also feature vendor exhibits related to forage and beef cattle production.

Registration is \$15 per person before November 30, and \$20 per person after November 30. Anyone who would like to attend can register for the conference by sending their name, address and registration fee to Kay Holloway, 202 Funchess Hall, Auburn University, AL 36849.

Checks should be made payable to the Alabama Forage and Grassland Coalition. Lunch will be provided. For more information, contact Ball by telephone at (334) 844-5491 or by email at dball@aces.edu.