Forage Field Day is August 29th

One of the annual events that we try to hold each year is a hay and forage field day at the Glade Spring Research Farm just west of Glade Spring on Hillman Highway. This year promises to be a great event with many activities planned.

Along with learning opportunities, if you have applied for the recent Forage Production Grant (Smyth County already has a waiting list but more on this later) this meeting serves as a qualifier for the required course work in forage management.

We will begin the program at 4:30 p.m. **We will serve supper so please call (276)783-5175 by Tuesday, August 26th** if you plan to attend. There is no cost for the meeting. You can expect to see the following:

We will begin by observing the Regional Corn Silage Variety Trial research plots near the entrance to the station. We will also look at fall forage production using oats and discuss the Orchardgrass and Tall Fescue Variety results.

We are planning to also do some demonstrations using drones to spray herbicides and apply fertilizer. We will then break for supper and following our meal, we will examine what it actually costs to produce a round bale of hay.

We will discuss pasture renovation and do some hands-on work setting and calibrating a no-till drill.

As stated earlier, this meeting does help qualify you for our current Forage Production Grant. This cost share program, funded by the Tobacco Commission and handled by the Lee County Cattleman’s Association covers much of SW Virginia, including Smyth County.

Funds from the grant, as the name implies, can be used to cover costs associated with doing a better job with your pastures and forage crops. Equipment such as fertilizer, lime and manure spreaders or hay wrappers are covered as well as hay barns and testing equipment. Fencing for grazing plots is covered but border fencing is not.

You can learn more about what is and is not covered by dropping by the Extension Office and picking up a copy of the grant material.

Upcoming Events

Aug 16 Deadline to consign calves to September VQA Sale

Aug 20 August VQA Sale, Tri State Livestock Market 7 pm

Aug 26 VQA Steer Take Up

Aug 28 VQA Heifer Take Up

Aug 29 Hay and Forage Field Day, SWVA AREC

Sept 24 September VQA Sale

Sept 26 Smyth Washington Cattleman Meeting

Sept 30 VQA Steer Take Up

Oct 2 VQA Heifer take Up

Oct 9 Ag Field Day for 4th Graders

If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact Andy Overbay or Pam Testerman at (276) 783-5175/TDD (800) 828-1120) during business hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event.