

Iowa Forage and Grasslands Council Annual Conference, November 23 & 24

Nationally known speakers will highlight the forage conference organized by the Iowa Forage and Grasslands Council on November 23 and 24 at the Airport Holiday Inn (611 Fleur Dr.) in Des Moines. The conference promises to be full of information designed to assist those using forages in their livestock operations.

Monday's agenda consists of a round table discussion including the topic of forage research needs for the 21st century led by Dr. Neil Martin of the U.S. Dairy Forage Research Center in Madison, Wisconsin. Dr. Martin will also present information on new developments on the horizon related to forage varieties and traits.

“Like much of agriculture, the economics of forage production and marketing have changed in recent years. This conference will provide the most up-to-date research and education on forage and grassland management for the serious grassland manager”, said Dr. John Lawrence of the Iowa Beef Center.

The program kicks off on Tuesday, November 24 with an interesting presentation from Dr. Lawrence on Making Forages Pay – the Economics of Forage Production. He will also be a key participant in a panel of presenters on : Grain-Fed and Grass-Fed: What works. That session will include producer experience from each type of beef operation.

The agenda will also include informative sessions on forages as biomass, balage (as an option for forage management) and a look at hay equipment developments from Ron Tombaugh of DART Hay Services. Dr. Ken Moore, Professor of Agronomy at Iowa State University and Dr. Mark Jenner from Biomass Rules, LLC will lead the biomass session.

Registration for the conference is only \$40 which includes lunch, breaks and program materials. Registration can be paid at the door. To pre-register for the conference or for more information, call Joan O'Brien at 515-262-8323. Registrations for the conference will also be taken at the door.