

Situation Statement

Monroe County has an estimated economic value of \$12.7 million dollars for livestock and equine production according to the 2019 Farm Gate value. One way for producers to keep input costs low is to ensure that forage crops are available as a primary food source for livestock and horses. To best serve Monroe County livestock and horse producers in forage production Monroe County Extension Agent Caitlin Jackson has offered progressive face-to-face programming and provided educational resources and diagnostic services.

Program Objectives

1. Provide unbiased research-based forage management resources and educational programs to Monroe County livestock producers and horse owners.
2. Engage clients in hands-on trainings on forage management with field demonstrations.
3. Provide clients with an integrated pest management approach for sustainable forage production.

Program Activities

Educational Programming in Forage Production

Face to face programming is the cornerstone of University of Georgia Cooperative Extension educational outreach initiative to clients. Through presentations, field days, and hands-on demonstrations clients are able to gain knowledge in forage production. Caitlin Jackson has coordinated, facilitated and presented forage management programs through a variety of formats from 2017 to present day.

- Co-coordinated a Drought Update in 2019 for livestock producers facing difficulties after a very dry summer. The program was a collaborative effort with other middle Georgia UGA Extension Agents, Natural Resource Conservation Service and Farm Service Agency. The program was attended by producers and a representative from Senator Purdue's office. Caitlin Jackson and Hailey Robinson (Upson/Lamar ANR) co-presented about Nitrate Toxicity in livestock and demonstrated properly pulling a forage sample.
- Co-coordinated a tour of the UGA FEW laboratory for livestock producers with Hailey Robinson (Upson/Lamar ANR) in 2019 to learn about the testing services available to livestock producers and how forages are tested.
- The Baleage and Silage Short Course was a two-day field day hosted in Monroe and Lamar Counties in March 2019 as a collaborative effort between Caitlin Jackson, Hailey Robinson (Upson-Lamar ANR), Michael Abney (Jones ANR) and UGA Extension Forage Specialist Dennis Hancock. The first day of the short course consisted of classroom and lecture sessions and the second day included on-farm demonstrations of forage sampling, weed walks, and equipment demonstrations by Krone and PÖTTINGER.
- GrassMasters was a seven-part series facilitated by Caitlin Jackson in Monroe County attended by thirty participants from thirteen counties in January and February of 2019. GrassMasters is a collaborative effort from the UGA Forage Team to educate Extension clients about forage management.

- Hay Field Day 2018 was coordinated and facilitated by Caitlin Jackson at S&S Farms in Monroe County. In 2018 weed management was the main highlight as Caitlin Jackson presented a Hay and Pasture Weed Management Update, Lucy Ray (Morgan ANR) presented about foxtail infestations in hay fields and pastures and John Pope (Butts ANR) gave a demonstration on sprayer calibrations. Other topic presentations included a personal protective equipment (PPE) demonstration and chemical storage recommendations by Georgia Department of Agriculture inspectors and Trey Gafnae (Jasper ANR) led a presentation on fire ant management. The program concluded with a field demonstration of PÖTTINGER hay cutting equipment.
- A Beef Field Day was hosted by NRCS in 2018 and Caitlin Jackson was invited with Wade Hutcheson (Spalding ANR) and Hailey Robinson (Upson/Lamar ANR) to present a Weed Management program offering CEU credits for private and commercial pesticide license holders and also coordinated a Weed Identification Challenge and Weed Walk for seventy participants.
- Caitlin Jackson serves as the Agent Advisor for the Monroe County Cattlemen's Association and coordinates meeting agendas. From 2018 to 2021 Mrs. Jackson coordinated 13 hours of presentations that emphasized forage management strategies. Topics included seasonal updates, Bermuda stem maggot management, rotational grazing and temporary fencing, interspecies grazing, fire ant control, nitrate toxicity, and overseeing winter annuals.

Forage Grants

Caitlin Jackson is member of the UGA Extension forage grant for hay testing and innovation called "It's Just a Guess Unless You Test". The grant focuses on providing forage samples for cattle producers to test their hay or haylage who had no previous experience or knowledge of forage analysis.

Weed of the Week

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the cancelation of all face-to-face Extension programming Caitlin Jackson created a two-month Weed of the Week educational social media campaign for Extension clients. Every Monday during April and May a social media graphic "Guess this Weed" authored by Caitlin Jackson was posted on the Monroe County Extension Facebook Page. Followers were encouraged to comment their guess on the identification of the weed on the post by Tuesdays. Correct guesses were entered in drawing for a free soil sample. On Wednesday Caitlin Jackson would post a fact sheet graphic on social media that would include information about the weed and treatment options.

Printed Materials

Every year University of Georgia publishes updated pesticide recommendations for farmers and homeowners. The majority of Monroe County clients engaged in farming activities emphasize hay production and pasture management for livestock and horses. To best serve these clients Caitlin Jackson developed a Pasture and Hay Management Handbook that is distributed yearly. In the handbook there are resources to identify weeds and insects and pesticide recommendations.

The forage analysis reports that comes from the UGA FEW Lab can sometimes be difficult to interpret for livestock producers and horse owners. To better understand forage quality Caitlin

Jackson developed a “Quick Read Forage Analysis” for dry hay and baleage so producers could easily understand their forage quality and nitrate levels to determine feeding rations.

Diagnostic Services

Caitlin Jackson conducted on-site consultations and diagnostic services to identify weeds and insects and made effective cultural or chemical control recommendations. Additionally, Caitlin collected and submitted forage samples for producers.

Target Audience

Forage management is important for all livestock and equine clients in Monroe County. To best serve the community Caitlin Jackson has provided UGA Extension programming and educational materials on weed management specific to all farmers and horse owners based on needs.

Collaborative Efforts

Since 2018 Caitlin Jackson has collaborated with many people and organizations in order to provide timely and educational programming on weed management.

The list of collaborative partners includes:

- University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Specialists
 - Patrick McCullough
 - Dennis Hancock
- University of Georgia Cooperative Extension County Agents
 - Hailey Robinson (Upson and Lamar Counties)
 - Brooklynn Wassel (Pike County)
 - John Pope (Butts County)
 - Michael Abney (Jones County)
 - Lucy Ray (Morgan County)
 - Wade Hutcheson (Spalding County)
- UGA Extension Forage Team
- USDA –Natural Resource Conservation Service
- USDA – Farm Service Agency
- Georgia Department of Agriculture
- Mid-GA Cattlemen’s Association
- Monroe County Cattlemen’s Association
- Country Oaks Feed and Farm Supply
- PÖTTINGER
- Krone NA, Inc.

Impact

Educational Programming in Forage Management

- Participants in the tour of the FEW Lab indicated that they felt more confident in the diagnostic and testing services when surveyed after the tour.
- The Baleage and Silage Short Course provided 85 participants 16 hours of educational programming and field demonstrations in grass management and harvest. Thirty-five CEU's were earned by private and commercial license holders. A post program survey was emailed to participants and results indicated significant increases in knowledge and the plan to change current production methods to be more productive.
- The GrassMasters series hosted by Caitlin Jackson in 2019 had thirty participants complete the series. Participants completed post program surveys and over 90% said they would implement production methods learned in the course.
- Hay Field Days were attended by a total of 65 participants in 2018 and a total of 44 CEU credits were earned by private and commercial pesticide license holders from weed management presentations.
- The NRCS Beef Field Day was attended by a total of 85 participants 17 CEU credits were earned by private and commercial pesticide license holders from weed management presentation.

Forage Grant

Caitlin Jackson was able to record seventeen forage samples for eight producers from Monroe County under the grant. A follow-up survey was developed by UGA Extension Beef Specialist Lawton Stewart that Mrs. Jackson assisted with data collection and interpretation of survey data for the grant.

Weed of the Week

There were over 4,000 engagements on the eight-week Weed of the Week social media campaign and eight Monroe County clients were awarded free soil samples for their correct identification of the featured weed.

Weed Management Printed Materials

Two hundred Hay and Pasture Management Handbook books were printed and distributed to Monroe County clients from 2017 to 2020.

From 2018 to 2021 the Quick Read Forage Analysis has been utilized 141 times and was awarded the state winner for GACAA Communication Award: Fact Sheet in 2019.

Diagnostic Services

Since 2018 Caitlin Jackson has identified 210 weeds for farmer and horse owners and provided control recommendations.

Contribution to Diversity

University of Georgia Cooperative Extension is an equal opportunity provider. All clients were welcomed, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, or social identity.

Supporting Materials

University of Georgia Cooperative Extension
BALEAGE & SILAGE
Short Course
MARCH 21-22, 2019
 Forsyth, GA



REGISTRATION FEE
 \$80
 (Includes Program Materials and Meals)

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GRASS
Georgia Resource for Agriculture and Small Business

Space is limited.
 Register by visiting www.georgiaporages.com
 or by mailing registration form to Monroe County Extension

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2ND ANNUAL MONROE CO EXTENSION
HAY FIELD DAY
MAY 11, 2018
9 AM TO 2 PM




SPRAYER CALIBRATION
PEST MANAGEMENT
PESTICIDE SAFETY
INNOVATIVE PRODUCTION
PÖTTINGER DEMO

Thank You to our Sponsors!
 I-75 Truck Sales
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 PÖTTINGER

2 HOUR PESTICIDE CREDIT
 Private Category 2a

SGS FARMS, 2443 BRENT RD, FORSYTH
FEE: \$5 (INCLUDES MEAL)

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Monroe County Extension
HAY & PASTURE
PEST MANAGEMENT
HANDBOOK
 2020

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MONROE COUNTY EXTENSION
WEED OF THE WEEK: THISTLE



This prickly pest will quickly take over lawns or pastures if you don't take action!

TREATMENT OPTIONS

- Use products with 2,4-D for chemical control. For best control spray when plants are at the stage pictured above.
- Mowing provides limited control. Best time to mow would be when the flower buds begin to emerge.
- Remove plants by hand-digging down 3-4 inches of the taproot before budbreak.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PLEASE EMAIL
CRBENN@UGA.EDU

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GrassMasters Program Participants 2019 – Forsyth, GA