

SUCCESS STORY

Forage Improvement and Utilization

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Kentucky wheat field in June.

Good forage production can improve farm income as a result of cash sales and better livestock performance. According to the community's needs and leadership of our County Extension Council, it was determined that forage production and utilization should be a major program thrust. With input from producers areas where educational programs could help make improvements were identified. Soil testing/pasture or forage seeding and renovation/weed control/fence improvement were targeted.

With the aid of grant money from the Ag Development Board, Hart County Extension Service was able to offer free soil testing. The number of soil tests run has increased by over 30%. A county forage improvement program with Ag Development funds of over \$800,000 matched with an equal investment from producers has resulted in farmers making improvements to 3,051 acres of forage. To address the weed control education, six radio programs were presented, and a Weed Control news letter was sent to over 2,000 producers.

Three educational programs on fencing were conducted with 176 producers. Educational programs were planned and conducted to inform and assist local livestock producers about how best to improve their available hay and pasture lands. Some of the topics covered were grass and legume selection, seedling methods, proper renovation techniques, and management of lands for best production. Ag Development funds of over \$500,000 have been invested in farm livestock fencing improvements. From a follow up survey 40% of those attending the fence programs have made fence improvements. Of those who made fence improvements 70% increased pasture acres.

For more information about Hart County programs, visit:

<https://www.facebook.com/Hart-County-Cooperative-Extension-Service-242277935802520/?fref=ts>

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