



Northeast Florida Beef & Forage Group



Volume II, No. 2

August, 2002

Dear Friends,

This is the time of year to begin thinking about your fall and winter feeding options. We have some excellent upcoming programs on this topic, be sure to register today.

We are continuing to develop a user friendly web site to help answer your Beef-Forage related questions, please call with suggestions for improvement. Visit the web site at <http://nfbfg.ifas.ufl.edu>.

Sincerely,

Kari Dollar
Northeast Florida Beef & Forage Group Chairman

Fall Forage Options

Submitted by Mike Sweat

Now is the time to begin making preparations for planting fall forages. Winter legumes and small grains can make excellent forage. They are frost tolerant and can supply highly nutritious feed during the winter and early spring months. In addition, legumes if inoculated properly, can supply their own nitrogen and provide nitrogen for other plants growing with them.

Rye is probably the most popular of the small grains for forage. It will produce earlier than ryegrass, however it requires plowing or disking the seedbed. There is no set "planting date" for winter forages, rather it is best to wait until cooler weather arrives to lessen the chance of disease fungi attacking the young seedlings. These fungi are more active when soil temperatures are warm and sometimes entire stands can be lost.

Oats are less susceptible to the fungi and can be planted a little earlier to provide early forage. Producers should seriously consider incorporating legumes such as clover into their winter pasture. Remember clover and other legumes require a higher target pH (6.0) and liming should be done well in advance of planting.

Planting winter forages on a clean, well prepared seedbed has been shown to result in earlier and more total production as compared to overseeding on a grass sod, especially if the grass is not dormant at planting time.

For specific recommendations, planting rates and dates, please refer to the table on the next page, call your local Extension Office, or visit the beef forage web site at: (<http://nfbfg.ifas.ufl.edu>)

Fall Forage Planting Dates & Rates

Planting dates, seeding rates and planting depths for certain cool season forage crops.			
Seed Propagated Crops ¹	Planting Dates ²	Seeding Rates (lb/A Broadcast)	Seeding Depth (inch)
Alfalfa	Oct. 1 - Nov. 15	12-20	¼-½
Clover, Arrowleaf	Oct. 1 - Nov. 15	8-10	0-½
Clover, Berseem	Oct. 1 - Nov. 15	16-20	¼-½
Clover, Crimson	Oct. 1 - Nov. 15	20-26	¼-½
Clover, Red	Oct. 1 - Nov. 15	6-12	¼-½
Clover, Subterranean	Oct. 1 - Nov. 15	18-22	¼-½
Clover, White	Oct. 1 - Nov. 15	3-4	0-¼
Fescue, Tall	Nov. 1 - Dec. 15	16-20	¼-½
Oats for forage	Sept. 15 - Nov. 15	96-128 (3-4 bu)	1-2
Pea, Austrian Winter	Oct. 1 - Nov. 15	45-60	½-1
Rye for forage	Oct. 15 - Nov. 15	84-112 (1.5-2 bu)	1-2
Ryegrass, Italian (annual)	Oct. 1 - Nov. 15	20-30	0-½
Sweetclover	Oct. 1 - Nov. 15	12-15	¼-½
Turnips	Oct. 1 - Nov. 15	5-6	¼-½
Vetch, hairy	Oct. 1 - Nov. 15	20-30	1-2
Wheat for forage	Oct. 15 - Nov. 15	90-120 (1.5 - 2 bu)	1-2

¹ Always check seed quality. Seed germination should be 80% or higher for best results.
² Planting date range: in general, cool season forage crops in north Florida can be planted in the early part of the planting date range and in south Florida, the latter part of the planting date range.

Fall Forage Varieties

Recommended Cool Season Forage Cultivars for Fall Planting 2002	
Rye	Recommended varieties are Florida 401 and Florida Black for late fall and early winter grazing. Wrens 96, Florida 402, Wrens Abruzzi, Bates, Elbon, Bonel, Oklon, Maton, Pennington Wintergraze 70, Gurley Grazer 2000, and Grazemaster for winter and spring grazing. (Wrens 96, a recent cultivar release, is a good seed producer in Florida. Maton, Elbon, Bonel or Oklon are very poor seed producers.)
Oats	Recommended varieties are Hirzon 474, Florida 502, and Florida 501 for early season grazing. Horizon 314, Chapman, Harrison, Terral Secretariat LA495, Coker 227, Ozark, AR-County Seeds 833, 811, LA604 and Plot Spike LA9339 for winter and spring grazing. Horizon 474 and Plot Spike LA 9339 are new varieties. They have improved crown rust resistance, winter hardiness and grain and forage production.
Wheat	Recommended varieties for grazing are AGS 2000, Pioneer 26R61, Pioneer 2684, Coker 9835, Roberts, GA-Gore, GA-Dozier. AGS 2000 and Pioneer 26R61 are two new varieties available for the first time in 2000, and they have performed very well in grain yield trials as well as forage trials.
Ryegrass	Recommended varieties are Jumbo, Florlina, Surrey, Jackson, Magnolia, Rio, Gulf, Southern Star, Big Daddy, TAM 90, Paseral Plus, Ed, Brigadier, Surrey II, Stampede, Fantastic, Graze-N-Gro, King, and Prine. (Other new varieties may be suitable but have not been adequately tested in Florida.)
White Clover	Recommended varieties are Osceola (developed in Florida), Louisiana S-1, and Regal Ladino.
Red Clover	Recommended varieties are Cherokee, Kenland, Redland III, and Kenstar. (Cherokee, developed in Florida is earlier and highest yielding cultivar.)
Alfalfa	The recommended variety is Florida 99.
Crimson Clover	Recommended varieties are Flame, Dixie, Chief, Tibbee and AU-Robin.
Arrowleaf Clover	Recommended variety is Yuchi. A new cultivar, Apache with improved virus resistance has been grown in Florida for one year and performed well.
Sweetclover	Recommended varieties are Hubam and Floranna.
Austrian Winter Peas	This annual legume is best suited to well drained soils with a high clay content.
Vetch	Recommended varieties are Cahaba, White, Hairy, Common, and AU-Early Clover.

Effects of Cattle Body Condition Related to Reproduction

Cindy Sanders - Alachua County Extension Agent,
Livestock

Late summer early fall, usually relates to a decline in forage palatability as well as forage quality. Therefore, cattlemen must begin to supplement cattle during the early fall to meet the nutritional needs of the bred cow. Body condition affects the amount and type of supplements needed during the fall and winter. Therefore, nutrition is potentially the most critical factor affecting reproduction. Variation in body condition scores in beef cows has several implications that can be used for management decisions. Some factors affecting body condition scores are forage species, forage management, dates of calving, stocking rate, weaning age, genetics, parasites, and supplements. Evaluating body condition scores (BCS) may not pinpoint problems, but it focuses the managers attention on important areas.

Body condition of beef cows is scored from 1(thin) to 9(fat). Scoring of cattle may vary depending on the people doing the scoring. Most cattle in Florida range from 3-7. Research studies indicate that the ideal Body Condition Score is 5. Scores below 5 increase days to return to estrus, increases days to conception, lower pregnancy rates, and produce lighter calves at weaning. Cattle with higher condition scores contain higher levels of fat. A body condition score of 5 contains 15-18% fat, and body condition 7 contains 25-27% fat. Therefore, fat cattle above condition score of 7 is costing the cattlemen extra that may not be needed. On the other hand those cattle with scores lower than 5, cost the cattlemen as well.

By determining the BCS we can then determine the level of supplement needed. Florida guidelines for supplementation are as follows: BCS 6 or above: 1.0-2.0 lb/day of a supplement containing 30-40% protein. BCS 4 or below: 4.0-6.0 lb/day of a supplement containing 12-16% protein. Improving cattle from a BCS of 4 to 5 will require gain of 150-200 lbs. This gain will require an estimated 400 lb of corn or 590 lb of blackstrap molasses supplements fed over 80 to 100 days with maintenance quality forage. However, cost effectiveness needs to be evaluated.

Body Condition is related to productivity and is a powerful tool for making management decisions in the beef cow herd. If you are interested in learning more about body condition scoring, please feel free to contact your local extension agent for information.



Body Condition Score 1



Body Condition Score 8

Deer Grazing & Preference of 13 Winter Pasture Cultivars

Submitted by Jacque Breman

We read a lot about what deer like to graze in the popular press. I say, let the deer tell us what they prefer for Fall and Winter grazing in their supplemental food plots.

The Suwannee Valley Research Center is located outside of Live Oak on coarse, sandy, well-drained soils. I planted 16 winter forage cultivars for Dr. Ann Blount, Extension Forage Specialist, on October 15, 2001 for demonstrations purposes for agents and farmers in northeast Florida. Monthly observations were conducted until deer stopped feeding.

Deer have shown us their preferences and how they change over the season:

- In late November they preferred AGS 2000 wheat > Chapman oats > Horizon oats > Wrens Abruzzi rye = Abruzzi 96 rye > Italian ryegrasses & clovers.

- In mid-December they preferred Chapman oats > AGS 2000 wheat > AU Robin Crimson clover > Horizon oats > Wrens Abruzzi rye > Marshall Italian ryegrass = Jackson Italian ryegrass > Red God red clover > Dixie crimson clover > Cherokee red clover = Jumbo Italian ryegrass = Big Daddy Italian ryegrass.
- By early January they had grazed all Red clover, Crimson clover, Oats, Rye and Wheat plots to approximately 1 inch above the soil surface. Percent plants grazed of the Italian ryegrasses were ranked in order of preference as follows: Marshall > Jumbo > Big Daddy > Jackson. This was in spite of my top-dressing all plots with the amounts of nitrogen and potash recommended in the soil test, deer were grazing harder than the plants could grow.

Suggestions for your deer food plot management:

- Plant earlier than we're used to can attract deer by November: Planting in mid – October provided needed forage in November (consider wheat & oats in your seed mix) .
- Plant clovers in mixtures with small grains to extend the grazing season (oats come in first, then wheat, clover, rye and Italian ryegrass.
- Match your clover to your type of soil and moisture. On sandier soils plant Dixie Crimson clover. On more moist Flatwoods soils try Cherokee Red clover. (Around wet cypress head – types of soils I have found Louisiana S-1 to be the most consistent, early white clover variety to plant).
- Wheat, oats, rye and Crimson clover varieties were most grazed in December.
- By January, everything had been grazed down to the ground except the four Italian Ryegrass varieties.
- Once dry hot weather and early woods "green-up" occurred, deer abandoned the plots in late February/early March and favored green growth in the woods.

- Put your own test plots out of different forages and let your deer "tell you" what they prefer by how much they've grazed.

For more information, the full article may be viewed on the Union County Web site at <http://union.ifas.ufl.edu> or you may contact Jacque Breman, County Extension Director at (386)496-2321.

Pasture Weed Control

submitted by Kari Dollar

Now is the perfect time to think about winter weed control. Thistle and wild radish are common winter annuals which are emerging this time of year. Monitor fence rows, handling facilities, roads, hayfields and pastures for these weeds.

Wild radish is a winter broadleaf annual. The seedlings have kidney-shaped cotyledons with evident veins somewhat impressed into the upper surface.

The first leaves are hairy with smooth margins when they emerge, but these become lobed with age. Young plants have stiff, prickly hairs on the 4-sided stem, but become smooth with age. The hairy leaves are broader at the tip than the base with rounded, deeply irregularly cut lobes. Hair occurs on both surfaces. The flowers are yellow to white with purple veins on the petals. Wild radish is typically found in disturbed areas and cultivated fields. Wild radish can be controlled in pastures by applying 2,4-D (2-4 pints of the four-pound formulation to an acre) or Banvel (.5 to 1.5 pints per acre).

Thistle is an erect, stout, spiny winter annual. Leaves have shallow, spiny lobes. The flowers are purple with a large terminal, spiny head. It is reproduced by seed and is commonly found in open, sandy areas. Thistle can be control by applying Weedmaster at a rate of one to two quarts per acre during the rosette stage and before the flower stalks elongate.

Banvel, 2,4-D and Weedmaster have grazing restrictions that need to be observed. Always read the pesticide label for restrictions and precautions.

For help in identifying pasture weeds and proper control methods, contact your local Extension Office.

Fall Forage Update

**August 19, 2002 - Double
W Ranch in Jacksonville**

**August 20, 2002 -
Suwannee County Extension
Office**

5:45 pm - 8:00 pm for both
locations

Topics to be
covered:

- Forage
Varieties,
Rates and
Planting Dates
- Fertilizing
and Liming
Fall Forages
- Winter
Weed Control
- Matching Forage to the Animal
- Insect Management
- Wildlife Food Plot Research

$\frac{1}{2}$ C.E.U. has been
applied for
towards renewal
of your
Private Pesticide
Applicators
License

**IN ORDER TO PLAN THE
MEAL, PLEASE CALL YOUR
LOCAL EXTENSION OFFICE
TO RSVP BY AUGUST 16TH.**

For individuals with disabilities, requiring special accommodations, please contact your local County Extension Office, within a minimum of 72 hours of this program so that proper consideration may be given to the request.

More Livestock or Forage Questions?
Call you local UF/IFAS Cooperative Extension Service
Agent from the Northeast Florida Beef and Forage Group
in:

Alachua County

Cindy Sanders
Extension Agent - Livestock
(352)955-2402

Baker County

Mike Sweat
County Extension Director
(904)259-3520

Bradford County

David Dinkins
County Extension Director
(904)966-6224

Clay County

Kari Dollar
Extension Agent - Livestock & Forages
(904)284-6355

Columbia County

Paulette Tomlinson
Extension Agent - Livestock & Forages
(386)752-5384

Duval County

Larry Varnadoe
Extension Agent - Livestock
(904)387-8850

Nassau County

Jeff Simmons
Agriculture & Natural Resources
(904)879-1019

Suwannee County

Marissa Brown
Extension Agent - Agriculture
(386)362-2771

Union County

Jacque Breman
County Extension Director
(386)496-2321

For TDD service, call the Florida Relay Service Center at:
1-800-955-8771

Northeast Florida Beef & Forage Group
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- Fall Forage Update Workshop
- Nematodes Now Available
for Mole Cricket Control

Visit our website at <http://nfbfg.ifas.ufl.edu>

Nematodes Now Available for Pasture Mole Cricket Control

The nematode *Steinernema scapterisci* (Ss) is now commercially available under the trade name Nematac S® for permanent biocontrol of mole crickets in pastures. Nematac S contains infective juveniles (Ijs) which when applied to pasture, immediately begin their search for an adult or pre-adult mole cricket, invade it, initiate infection and reproduce inside the dead mole cricket.

The length of time that the juveniles survive in soil after application and without finding a mole cricket is days or weeks, depending on soil temperature, type, and moisture, and natural enemies. Survival is better in sandy or sandy-loam soils, adequate moisture, and temperatures between 60 and 70°F than in clay soils, excessive moisture, and higher or lower temperatures. There are numerous organisms in the soil that prey on the juvenile nematodes (i.e. mites, fungi and other nematodes). Therefore, large numbers of nematodes are normally applied (~ 1 billion/A), and they must find and infect a mole cricket in the shortest possible time after application for success.

The two recommended times that are ideal for nematode application to pastures in Florida are September to November, and March to May when a high percentage of adult mole crickets are present. Nematode application during these periods should be timed for early mornings or evenings and following rainfall or irrigation to ensure cool, moist conditions necessary for nematode survival. Upon successful entry and infection in mole crickets, the nematodes will reproduce in the mole cricket and recycle back into the soil to allow for long-term mole cricket control. Currently researchers are looking at several methods for applying the nematodes including a modified “grain drill” to place the nematodes into the soil.

For more information contact your Extension Agent or visit the NFBG Website at <http://nfbfg.ifas.ufl.edu>