

NORTH FLORIDA BEEF & FORAGE GROUP



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Cool Season Wildlife</i>	1-2
<i>Food Plot Suggestions for October</i>	
<i>How Should I Supplement this Fall/ Winter?</i>	2-3
<i>2007 Fall Forage</i>	3
<i>National Animal ID Revisited</i>	4
<i>Cool Season Forage Planting/ Seeding Rates</i>	5

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November 2, 2007

It is the time of year cattlemen start thinking about their fall and winter feeding program.

With that in mind, our newsletter this month, focuses on fall/winter feeding topics. As extension agents we try to pro-

vide timely topics of interest.

We hope that this newsletter, along with NFBFG programs is educational to you and your operation.

If you have any questions about any of the following articles or top-

ics, please feel free to contact your local agent.

Sincerely,

David B. Nistler

David B. Nistler

Cool – Season Wildlife Food Plot Suggestions for October:

By: Jacque Breman, Ph.D., Union County Extension

Now is the time to prepare the wildlife (deer) food plot land and plant. Following are some guidelines for locating your food plot (2):
Ideal plot size = 1 to 2 acres.

Plot shape is better if long instead of square (more edge the better).

Plant one acre for every 100 acres of forest land (1:100).

Locate plots in areas that are already open or partially open (deer already used to the area being open).

Examples of good locations: Old logging decks, woods roads, beetle-killed areas, fire breaks, right-of-ways.

You should have already limed the food plot in August to bring the soil pH up to 6 (for small grains) or 6.5 (if you are going to plant a blend that includes clovers) (4). Without the benefit of a soil test, you might want to use the rule-of-thumb of applying 200 pounds per acre of a 16-4-8 analysis fertilizer at planting.

Deer have heavily

grazed plots planted in October, and showed preference for wheat as an early attractant (3). For wheat to make a stand it is important that the soil be harrowed and smoothed. Wheat has a weaker root system than rye. AGS 2000 wheat in one test of an October planting, was preferred and grazed heavier than any of the oats and rye varieties.

There are many seed blends available on the market, some of which have been compared (4), but others may not have

“There are many seed blends available on the market, some of which have been compared, but others may not have been tested in Florida conditions.”

been tested in Florida conditions. You might want to make your own blends of cultivars that have been tested for North Florida (1). The following mixes may be helpful to attract game early and provide a longer season of supplemental nutrition for wildlife, until Spring “green-up” occurs:

For Flatwood soils you might want to mix and plant 2 bushels oats, 1 bushel of wheat and 6 pounds of red clover seed per acre.

For really wet Flatwood sites you might want to mix and plant 20 pounds Italian ryegrass, 4 pounds of white clover

and 4 pounds of arrowleaf clover per acre.

For moderately drained soils you might want to mix and plant 1 bushel wheat, 2 bushels oats, and 15 pounds crimson clover per acre.

For dry, sandy soils you might want to mix and plant 1 bushel rye, 2 bushels oats, and 15 pounds crimson clover.

References are listed below which give detailed, University of Florida research-based information that might be helpful to your food plot plans.

References:

1. Blount, A.R. et

al. 2007. A walk on the wild side: 2007 cool-season forage recommendations for wildlife food plots in north Florida. [Online] Verified 11 October 2007. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AG139>

2. Blount, A.R. et al. 2007. 2007 wildlife forages for north Florida – Part 1: Cool season food plots. [Online] Verified 11 October 2007.

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AG140>

3. Breman, J. 2002. Deer grazing & preference of 13 winter pasture cultivars. Union County Extension Office Fact Sheet. Pp.4.

4. Williams, R. and T. Baxley. 2006. Comparing fall food plot blends for deer: 2006 update. [Online] Verified 11 October 2007. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/FR167>

How should I Supplement this Fall/Winter?

Cindy Sanders, Alachua County Extension

This is a tough question to answer, especially this year. With the cost of grains, winter grazer, and fuel, it's going to be difficult to find the supplementation program that will fit our “pocket book” as well as our cattle needs.

First of all feeding the cow herd is the largest cost area in a beef enterprise, approximately 45-50% of annual maintenance cost comes from feeding. Of that 45-50% supplemental feeds constitutes the largest, most variable portion of the annual cost. So, more importantly than perhaps ever before, cattle pro-

ducer must put a pencil to their supplementation program this year.

Our expectations of our beef cows is to maintain her body weight, give us a calf yearly, cycle promptly, and nurse that calf through weaning. We truly ask a lot of her. For her to complete her job, we as cattlemen must do our job first.

First, we must be aware of her nutritional requirements, which vary as to her age, and stage of her production. The first management practice should be to evaluate body condition going into the fall, to determine what needs to be feed to

make up those cows that are deficient. We like cattle going into the fall to have at least a body condition of 5-6. For those cattle that are thinner than a 5, it would take 533 lbs of bahia hay, 314 lbs of molasses, and 275 lbs of soy hulls to push her to a body condition of 5.

Secondly we would like to use as much standing forage (bahia) as possible. However, grazing standing bahia alone during the fall/winter will not meet energy and/or protein demands of cattle. Therefore, one must supplement to meet those

needs, this can be complicated. Forage quality, forage availability, cattle requirements, intake potential, and supplement characteristics can all play a role in meeting her requirements.

Protein and energy are the two most critical factors to consider when supplementing. A rule of thumb for protein supplementation is when forage protein drops below 7%

or when TDN (energy) drops below 50%. Although protein is important, the lack of energy accounts is the primary reason for body condition loss in Florida cows (Hersom, M.). Energy supplements will improve performance in beef cattle.

We need to remember, 1. Begin feeding supplements before it's too late! Bahia at this point in the cycle is reaching that 7% protein now. 2.

Evaluate what you have, so that you can figure what you need to supplement with. I have included a table with various supplemental feeds, some are more difficult to feed than others, and the cost this fall/winter will vary on these feeds. Always look at cost per pound of protein/energy for these feed sources. [Source: Dr. Matt Hersom, UF Beef Nutritionist]

Feed	Dry Matter	%Crude Protein	%TDN (Energy)
Corn Grain	89	10	89
Distillers Grains	89	30	86
Corn Gluten	90	20	83
Soybean Hulls	90	12	75
Whole Cottonseed	92	23	89

2007 Fall Forage Options

Mike Sweat, Baker County Extension

Now is the time to begin planting fall forages. Winter legumes and small grain pastures can make excellent forage to supplement livestock. 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. Seed costs have increased substantially for the 2007 fall planting season due to drought in seed production areas earlier in the year. Although production costs have increased, winter annual forages continue to be excellent grazing for livestock and can provide higher total digestible nutrients and protein than our summer grass pastures.

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. If overseeding is the only option, mow or graze

as close as possible and disk the bahiagrass sod to expose the seed to the soil. For bermudagrass, a pasture drill or no-till drill may be used without disking with good results. Rainfall in the first few weeks after overseeding is important to success.

The most efficient use of cool season forages would be as a protein and energy supplement through the use of "limit grazing" (allowing the animals to graze for only a limited amount of time at each event). Another option would be to increase the access by younger animals that need higher quality forage by "creep grazing" (only allowing those animals access to the forage).

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>)

*See last page for table.



National Animal ID Revisited

David Nistler, Clay County Extension

“The Premises ID will combine with the individual animal ID number to record both where the livestock are currently found and where the livestock originated.”

What is the NAIS?

The USDA sponsors the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) through its Veterinary Services (VS) program. The purpose of the NAIS is to safeguard animal health in the United States and protect the nation’s agricultural infrastructure. The goal of the NAIS is to facilitate tracing of a diseased animal back to its farm of origin within a 48 hour period.

What is a Premises?

A Premises is any property where livestock, including horses, resides. A Premises ID is one facet of the tracking system which will allow tracing of animal movement. In the future, movements of livestock will be recorded as the animal moves from one location to another.

What Premises needs to be registered?

Any premises should be registered where horses or any other livestock reside. If a business or individual manages multiple

locations where animals reside then the central managing location can be registered. Livestock includes animals such as a cow, horse, poultry, sheep, goat, swine, deer, elk, llama or bison.

When is the Premises ID needed?

Currently, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services do not require a Premises ID. The program is voluntary and all livestock owners are encouraged to participate. At some point in the future, livestock owners will need to identify individual animals as another facet of the tracking system. The Premises ID will combine with the individual animal ID number to record both where the livestock are currently found and where the livestock originated. As animals change Premises, a movement history will build that will facilitate the trace back process for timely response.

To register, the premises owner or authorized agent may:

- Complete a Premises ID Application form (<http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/onestop/forms/09215.pdf>) and mail or fax it to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS)
- Call or email FDACS and provide the information
- FDACS processes the application
- FDACS notifies the livestock owner of the new Premises ID

What does FDACS do with the information?

Information is housed in the USDA’s Standardized Premises Registration System (SPRS). The information is kept in databases in Fort Collins, Colorado, and Tallahassee, Florida. The information can only be accessed by animal health officials with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Table 1. Planting dates, seeding rates, planting depths, and grazing parameters for certain cool-season forage crops.

Seed-Propagated Crops ¹	Planting Dates ²	Seeding Rates (lb/A Broadcast)	Seeding Depth (inch)	Grazing height (in.)		Rest Period
				Begin	End	
Alfalfa	Oct. 1 - Nov. 15	12 - 20	1/4 - 1/2	10-16	3-4	Hay 35-40 Grazing 15-30
Clover, Arrowleaf	Oct. 1 - Nov. 15	8 - 10	0 - 1/2	8-10	3-5	10-20
Clover, Berseem	Oct. 1 - Nov. 15	16 - 20	1/4 - 1/2	8-10	3-5	10-20
Clover, Crimson	Oct. 1 - Nov. 15	20 - 26	1/4 - 1/2	8-10	3-5	10-20
Clover, Red	Oct. 1 - Nov. 15	6 - 12	1/4 - 1/2	8-10	3-5	10-20
Clover, Subterranean	Oct. 1 - Nov. 15	18 - 22	1/4 - 1/2	6-8	1-3	7-15
Clover, White	Oct. 1 - Nov. 15	3 - 4	0 - 1/4	6-8	1-3	7-15
Fescue, Tall	Nov. 1 - Dec. 15	16 - 20	1/4 - 1/2	4-8	2-3	15-30
Oats for forage	Sept. 15 - Nov. 15	96 - 128 (3-4 bu)	1 - 2	8-12	3-4	7-15
Pea, Austrian Winter	Oct. 1 - Nov. 15	45 - 60	1/2 - 1	Poor grazing, tolerance. Better suited as a hay or silage crop.		
Rye for forage	Oct. 15 - Nov. 15	84 - 112 (1.5 - 2 bu)	1 - 2	8-12	3-4	7-15
Ryegrass, Italian (annual)	Oct. 1 - Nov. 15	20 - 30	0 - 1/2	6-12	3-4	7-15
Sweetclover	Oct. 1 - Nov. 15	12 - 15	1/4 - 1/2	8-10	3-5	10-20
Turnips	Oct. 1 - Nov. 15	5 - 6	1/4 - 1/2	6-8	2-3	varies
Wheat for forage	Oct. 15 - Nov. 15	90 - 120 (1.5 - 2 bu)	1 - 2	8-12	3-4	7-15

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 northern Florida can be planted in the early part of the planting date range and in southern Florida, in the latter part of the planting date range.

Agricultural Enterprise Workshops for North Florida

November 14, 2007 - Florida REC - Suwannee Valley, Live Oak FL.. 8 a.m. Registration.

Workshops and hands-on demonstrations covering Worker Protection (CEU's), Hydroponic Systems, Plant Alternatives, Soils, Food Safety and the Farm, Small Ruminants, Fruit Orchard Opportunities, First Detector - Disease Identification, Basic Farm Arithmetic, Energy Options for your Farm, and more. Registration is \$20.00 and includes lunch.

For directions or more information contact Karen Hancock at 386-362-1725 or email to KHancock@ufl.edu.

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We're on the web:
<http://nfbfg.ifas.ufl.edu>