

August 14, 2017
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

David Dugan
OSU Extension Educator, Agriculture and Natural Resources
Adams/Brown/Highland Counties
Ohio Valley Extension Education Research Area

Things That Can Lengthen Your Fall Growing Season

We are in the prime time when it comes to putting seed in the ground to extend the grazing season here in Southern Ohio. This information appeared in the Beef Blog and is right on target for right now. If you wish to extend your grazing and reduce the amount of hay that you will need to feed, this might be for you. We have plenty of moisture at this point. In the past I have seen success with this idea even in very dry years. This was written by Gary Bates, University of Tennessee Extension . Seeding rates from the University of Tennessee are in a link at the address listed. You can also access the rates from Ohio State in the Ohio Agronomy Guide or at the University of Kentucky at www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage

One of the most expensive parts of a cattle operation is feeding a herd during the winter. More specifically, it is the hay that has to be used when no grazing is available. It isn't unusual for a producer in Tennessee and other parts of the country to feed hay for over 100 days during the winter. If they could reduce the number of days hay feeding was needed, they could significantly reduce their expenses for herd maintenance. Here are a few methods to increase the fall and winter grazing season and to decrease hay needs.

Don't overgraze tall fescue during the summer. Tall fescue is a cool-season grass and will grow well during the fall, when moisture and temperature conditions become favorable for forage growth. But if tall fescue is overgrazed, particularly during the summer, its energy reserves will be reduced and it will not be able to produce as much growth during the fall. In order to allow the tall fescue to prepare for strong fall growth, allow the tall fescue to have several weeks to rest and store root carbohydrates.

Stockpile tall fescue in fall. Pastures will start to regrow when fall rains begin and temperatures begin to fall. This will allow fall grazing to begin. One way to increase your fall and winter grazing is to set aside some of the acres of tall fescue and allow them to accumulate until November. Then allow cattle access to the tall fescue. The fall growth of tall fescue will remain relatively high all the way into January and February. You may also want to think about applying up to 60 pounds of nitrogen per acre to increase the amount of the forage produced. Wait to apply the fertilizer until there is adequate soil moisture for plant growth.

Graze the late summer growth of bermudagrass. If you have any acres of bermudagrass, research has shown that, until the bermudagrass turns completely brown, there is adequate forage quality to meet a dry cow's needs. While you are allowing the tall fescue to accumulate, grazing any bermudagrass on the farm will provide early fall grazing.

Seed wheat or rye with brassicas. Wheat, rye and brassicas (turnips) are winter annual crops that can produce significant amounts of fall and winter forage. They can provide additional forage production to allow fall and winter grazing. These are not a replacement for stockpiling tall fescue, but are supplemental. Look for areas that have poor



stands of tall fescue for a lot of common

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

CFAES provides research and extension programs to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis. For more information: go.osu.edu/cfaesdiversity

bermudagrass. These would make excellent places to seed with these annuals. More info on seeding rates and dates can be found at UTBeef.com

There are no magic bullets to keep from having to feed hay. But in Tennessee we have the right conditions to produce as much or more fall grazing than anywhere else in the nation. But it doesn't happen by accident. Planning to find the right places to seed and stockpile should begin during the summer. A little effort right now can save a lot of time and money during the winter.

The Top 10 Signs Your Neighbor Isn't Much of a Farmer

From time to time we all need a laugh. These may bring a smile to your face. This was in the Beef Blog recently and written by Mark Parker.

10. He has to buy his own caps because nobody will give him one.
9. You can't blame his cows for getting out because, in this case, the grass really is greener...
8. He's the reason the local vet has caller ID.
7. He's eligible for so many USDA programs, the local office has one secretary assigned to him exclusively.
6. The moon sign just never seems to line up for him.
5. He has a spring-calving cow herd—and summer and fall and winter.
4. His dog is always trying to go home with you.
3. Thankfully, his bull of unknown heritage is too weak and undernourished to jump the fence.
2. The parts guy is forever explaining to him that he can't spell his tractor let alone get parts for it.
1. He not only no-tills, sometimes he no-sprays, no-plants and no-harvests.

Dates to Remember

- | | |
|----------|---|
| Aug. 24 | Beef and Forage Field Night at OARDC Research Farm in Jackson. |
| Aug. 24 | Blueberry, Bramble and Wine Grape Field Night at OSU South Centers. |
| Sept. 14 | Fertilizer Certification opportunity at North Adams High School starting at 5:30 p.m. in the Round Room. Call to pre-register at least one week prior at the Adams Co. OSU Extension office, 937-544-2339 and ask for Barbie. |