

Stockpiled Bermudagrass Protocol **300 Day Grazing – Emphasis Program**

Objective:

Demonstrate the benefits associated with increasing the number grazing days by utilizing stockpiled Bermudagrass.

Methods & Procedures:

- Soil test by July 1
- Pasture inventory by July 1
- Clean off summer growth by August 1
- Apply 50–60 lbs. N in early August
- Defer grazing until mid-October
- Measure forage quality & yield of stockpiled Bermudagrass
 - Take yield estimates at turn in
 - Measure forage quality at turn in and every four weeks until grazing is completed
- Measure forage quality and weight of hay
- Record the number of acres, stocking rate, grazing method and turn in and turn out date.
- BCS or Weigh livestock at beginning and ending of grazing period
- Record rainfall events and amounts or utilize local weather station data

Data Analysis:

1. Determine fertilizer cost of stockpiling Bermudagrass.
2. Determine cost of hay.
3. Determine cost of supplemental feed.
4. Determine number of grazing days.
4. Determine economic cost difference between grazing stockpiled Bermudagrass vs. feeding hay plus supplement (if needed).

Outcomes:

1. Total cost comparison as a result of grazing stockpiled Bermudagrass.
2. Number of days grazing stockpiled Bermudagrass.
3. Number of Animal Units grazing stockpiled Bermudagrass

Outcomes:

1. Number of producers reached through field days, news letters and presentations.
2. Number of producers adopting the practice.

Stockpiled Bermudagrass

Agent Name: _____
Producer Name: _____

Field

Acres _____
Soil Test (By July 1) _____
Forage Inventory (By July 1) forage inventory sheet included

Fertilizer

Type _____
Date Applied _____
Rate per acre _____
Cost Per Ton _____
Total Cost _____

Grazing Period

Beginning Date _____
Ending Date _____

Grazing Method

Strip – How often were cattle moved _____
Continuous _____

Yield Estimate (*At turn in*) yield estimate worksheet included

Forage Quality (*Routine Analysis*)

October _____
November _____
December _____

Rainfall

Aug. – Dec. (*calendar included*)
Record Daily Amounts _____

Hay Fed (*During Grazing Period (if any) or would have been fed*)

Hay Analysis (*Routine*) _____
Hay Type _____
Hay Age _____
Hay Storage (*Inside or Outside*) _____
Bale Value _____
Bale Wt. (*try to get actual weight*) _____
Number of bales fed & date _____

Supplemental Feed

Type _____
Cost per ton _____
Pounds fed per day _____
Number of days fed _____

Livestock

Type _____
Number _____
Estimated average weight _____
Beginning Wt or BCS _____
Ending Wt or BCS _____

Livestock Weighing or BCS Guideline

Weighing: Calves or small ruminants

- Make sure you have a scale that is in working condition
- Try to do the beginning and ending weights at the same time of day
- Record weights and keep in project folder

BCS: Mature cows, bred heifers or horses

- Have the same person do the beginning and ending BCS
- Try to do a representative cross section of the herd
- Score a minimum of 5 head or 25% of the herd if over 20 head
- Score the same individual animals for beginning and the ending BCS
- Record BCS and keep in project folder

Forage Yield Estimate Worksheet

Date: _____

County: _____

Agent: _____

Yield Estimate: (*At turn in*)
(Cut 6-17" squares to 1 1/2")
(Dry and weigh forage in grams)

Weigh forage when completely dry.

	<u>Ht – Inches</u>	<u>Density – (Thin, Medium or Thick)</u>	<u>Wt. Grams</u>
#1	_____	_____	_____
#2	_____	_____	_____
#3	_____	_____	_____
#4	_____	_____	_____
#5	_____	_____	_____
#6	_____	_____	_____
Avg	_____	_____	_____

Forage Inventory Sheet

Name:				Date:			
County:							
Field ID:				Number of Acres:			
Species	County	Total	%	Species	Count	Total	%
Cool-Season Grasses				Legumes			
Fescue				White Clover			
Orchardgrass				Red Clover			
Ky Bluegrass				Annual Lespedeza			
Small Grain				Hairy Vetch			
Annual Ryegrass				Hop Clover			
Other Cool Season Grasses				Other Legumes			
Warm-Season Grasses				Weeds/Other			
Bermudagrass				Perennial Broadleaf Weeds			
Bahiagrass				Annual Broadleaf Weeds			
Dallisgrass				Perennial Grassy Weeds			
Crabgrass				Annual Grassy Weeds			
Other Warm Season Grasses				Sedge/Rush			
				Woody/Thorny Brush			
				Bare Ground			

To conduct a pasture inventory, walk a zip-zag pattern across a pasture and record what is found at the end of your toe on every 5th step. Record at least 50 tally marks—preferably 100 tally marks for each field.

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