

## **Stockpiled Fescue Protocol** 300 Day Grazing – Emphasis Program

### **Objective:**

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

### **Methods & Procedures:**

- Soil test by August 1
- Pasture inventory by August 1
- Clean off summer growth by September 1
- Apply 50–60 lbs. N in early September
- Defer grazing until mid-December
- Measure forage quality and yield of stockpiled Fescue
  - 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 Fescue.
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 Fescue vs. feeding hay plus supplement (if needed).

### **Outcomes:**

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

### **Outcomes:**

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

## Stockpiled Fescue

Agent Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Producer Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Field

Acres \_\_\_\_\_  
Soil Test (By August 1) \_\_\_\_\_  
Forage Inventory (By August 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*)

December \_\_\_\_\_  
January \_\_\_\_\_  
February \_\_\_\_\_  
March \_\_\_\_\_

### Rainfall

Sept. – 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	%
<b>Cool-Season Grasses</b>				<b>Legumes</b>			
Fescue				White Clover			
Orchardgrass				Red Clover			
Ky Bluegrass				Annual Lespedeza			
Small Grain				Hairy Vetch			
Annual Ryegrass				Hop Clover			
Other Cool Season Grasses				Other Legumes			
<b>Warm-Season Grasses</b>				<b>Weeds/Other</b>			
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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