

Observations Of A Country Vet

Mob Spring Grazing

DR. ROBERT MCCRORY

BENTON, KY.

February and March saw cows eating mature fescue and a liquid supplement. Hay is fed on end with no ring. When rings were used a boggy mess always resulted where pig weeds became thick. With this method, a ring of uneaten hay makes a nice bed to lay on plus controls bogging and later becomes organic matter for living organisms that are below ground that makes the soil alive. This is a sacrifice field and all hay is fed here. When it dries we will sow crab grass and lespedeza and no fertilizer will be needed.

Middle of March got my last bale of hay. Then we turned onto novel fescue with 60 percent clover that was 6-8 inches tall. Cows grazed a small amount daily and had access to coming regular pasture. This lasted for eleven days then they went to six year old endophyte free field with modest amount of clover with access to fescue/clover/Bermuda field. This will last the rest of April until 5th of May. The first field of mostly clover is growing back very fast. We will probably do another eleven days. Meanwhile the conventional pastures are growing like mad with all our rain. After that we will return to the place we are now. It is now 18-20 inches tall and contains mostly fescue with some orchardgrass

bluegrass and some clover. The regrowth is back to 8" and will be 12" by next cycle After that both fields will be rested and stockpiled for January-February.

Summer is many times our weak link. This can be solved by Bermuda grass if it will grow in your area. Ten percent of your pasture in this cussed grass will solve lots of your summer and fall problems. It is one plant you can go wild fertilizing, the more N it gets the more it will grow even in a drought. Cows aren't crazy about grazing it but they love it as hay. June is pasture month, if your pasture is not good then you are not doing it right. Now is the time to let pastures get lots of growth. Short grass now means no grass in July. It takes grass to grow grass so one should take advantage of the water we have now because it may be scarce in July and August. The secret is harvest and rest. All animals are moved daily. With this process there are no weeds and no mowing is needed because the good stuff is so thick weeds don't stand a chance. No fertilizer is needed because clover and urine furnishes nitrogen and other elements are gained from manure and matted forages. This is truly sustainable agriculture. Δ

DR. ROBERT MCCRORY: Veterinarian, Benton Kentucky



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