

# Research Using Clover To Maintain Pasture Fertility

*Steckler And Lamczyk Testing Newer Clover Varieties*

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**EWING, ILL.**

**D**r. Teresa Steckler, animal systems/beef specialist with the University of Illinois Extension, has an experimental clover plot in Southern Illinois that will help cattle producers determine which of the newer clover varieties will actually grow the best in their pastures in order to maintain pasture fertility.

Steckler explained, "you want to have a good clover stand; it provides the protein source as well as it helps the growth of other forages in

stand. As you walk on down you can see some of these other varieties are actually more lush. They have much better growth on them. We have both red and white; and the Pennington Durana is a very healthy stand. We tried to make sure that we did not have any particular low areas so all of the varieties had an equal opportunity to grow. As you get down further you can see that, for some reason, they are even healthier. The height of the clover is much deeper, it is taller."

In addition to Steckler's clover plots, lespedeza and crimson clover varieties were included and

**Dr. Teresa Steckler, Animal Systems/Beef Specialist with the University of Illinois Extension, shows an experimental clover plot in Southern Illinois that will help determine which of the newer clover varieties will grow best in farmers pastures.** Photo by John LaRose



your pasture."

The experimental plots were broadcast seeded. Marc Lamczyk, program coordinator with the University of Illinois Extension in Franklin County, is helping with the research.

According to Steckler, "we inter-seeded in mid-February, when we were still having the frost heave. This enabled the seeds to go down into the soil a little bit." The seeding rate was approximately 4.5 and 10 pounds per acre for the white and red varieties, respectively.

Steckler is testing 12 different varieties and is already noticing differences.

"We have 12 different varieties planted here, and you can see the Triple CT has a nice healthy

are doing well.

Steckler said the results will be updated in August. "What we are going to do in August is have a clover program on the 19th. The program will be hosted by the Franklin County Extension Office in Benton and is sponsored by the National Clover Association. At that time we will present forage yields and feed analysis, and make it available to anyone interested."

For more information about the clover program, call U of I Extension, 618-439-3178, or log on to [franklin.extension.uiuc.edu](http://franklin.extension.uiuc.edu).  $\Delta$

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