

POLK COUNTY GRAZIER

May 11, 2022



*An eNewsletter by the Rich Mountain
Conservation District*

The University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service is an excellent source of information for graziers. There are many factsheet publications on forages, weeds, and grazing management. Check out their website at: [University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service \(uada.edu\)](http://uada.edu) OR visit your local Extension office for more information. The below article is adapted from their Forage Management Guide.

BERMUDAGRASS_(part 2 of 2)

*ADAPTED FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS, COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE,
FORAGE MANAGEMENT GUIDE*

Bermudagrass Stand Management

Beef and dairy cattle producers are the primary users of bermudagrass in Arkansas, but the forage is also used for horses, sheep, and goats. Most bermudagrass is utilized as pasture or hay. As a hay crop, bermudagrass has several advantages over other forage species. One advantage is that large round bales of bermudagrass shed water and resist spoilage better than bales of tall fescue because its relatively fine leaf and stem form a tighter bale. Another advantage is that bermudagrass hay is harvested during a time of year when weather conditions are better for field curing, again resulting in less hay spoilage. Hybrid bermudagrasses are generally ready to be cut for hay when 15 to 18 inches tall, and can be cut every 4 to 6 weeks during the active growing season. For extremely high quality forage, hay can be cut when forage is as little as 6 inches tall.

As pasture forage, bermudagrass is hard to beat because of its tolerance of frequent close grazing. It is usually grown in pure stands. On continuously-stocked pastures, stocking rates should be adjusted to keep the bermudagrass between 3 and 5 inches tall. Bermudagrass can be rotationally grazed by moving cattle onto paddocks when 6 to 8 inches of growth has accumulated, and grazing it down to 2 inches within 7 to 10 days. When cattle are moved to the next paddock, the exited paddock should be fertilized with nitrogen to encourage grass growth for the next grazing period and increase protein content of the forage. Exited paddocks can be clipped if necessary to remove mature ungrazed forage and reduce selective grazing during the next occupation period. When more forage is produced than the cattle can utilize as pasture, the excess can be baled as hay.

Bermudagrass goes dormant during the winter months, but pastures can still be utilized with careful planning. Annual grasses, legumes, or small grains can be seeded into dormant bermudagrass sods in autumn to provide cool-season grazing. Another method for extending use of bermudagrass pastures into the winter is to grow bermudagrass in a mixture with tall fescue. In this case, proper timing of fertilizer application is vital to ensure persistence of both species. Fescue tends to be more aggressive in this mixture than bermudagrass, especially when fertilizer is applied during the cool months of spring when both species are actively growing. Fertilizing with nitrogen during the warm summer months favors the bermudagrass.

The type of bermudagrass grown (common or hybrid), nitrogen fertilizer applied, rainfall, and harvest date are the four main factors determining both tonnage and

quality of bermudagrass forage production. Specific variety differences are much less important. Critical issues regarding N fertilizer are the amount and timing of application. Bermudagrass should receive no less than 60 pounds of N per acre per year, and can efficiently utilize up to 400 pounds. In general, bermudagrass requires about 50 pounds of N for each ton of hay-equivalent forage produced, with yields generally increasing in direct proportion to the amount of N applied. Greater efficiency of N use occurs when split applications of N are made. An initial application of 40 to 50 lb N per acre should be made around April 1, and additional applications of 60 to 100 lb N per acre (depending on desired yield) should be made after every hay cutting or after every 4 to 6 weeks of grazing.

Bermudagrass benefits from application of phosphorus and potassium when soil test results indicate. These nutrients should be applied according to the soil test recommendations around April 1 or first green-up. To reach highest yield potential, an additional 80 to 100 lbs K per acre should be applied with the N after every hay cutting or after every 4 to 6 week grazing period. On weak stands, a K application just prior to the last grazing or hay cutting helps insure that plants are healthy going into the winter. Bermudagrass requires about four inches of water for every ton of dry matter produced. During late July and August, the crop may require one quarter inch of water per day. If rainfall is not adequate, the grass tends to go dormant.

Weed control may improve productivity of bermudagrass stands. Proper grazing, fertilizing, and clipping practices help control weeds and reduce the need for herbicides. Dicamba, 2,4-D, picloram and metsulfuron are broadleaf weed post-emergence herbicides currently labeled for use on bermudagrass. Glyphosate and paraquat are non-selective post-emergence herbicides that may be used to control winter annual weeds when bermudagrass is dormant. When any herbicides are used, it is essential that label directions be strictly followed regarding application rates and withdrawal times for grazing or hay.

Bermudagrass Forage Quality and Animal Performance

Protein concentration and TDN (total digestible nutrients) are the two major quality factors to consider with bermudagrass. Fertilization and harvest dates have a greater effect on forage quality than any other management factor. Bermudagrass generally contains from 4 to 18 percent crude protein, with an average around 10 percent. Nitrogen fertilization increases the protein percentage in the forage, with high N rates producing forage with as much as 25 percent crude protein. Reported bermudagrass hay TDN values in Arkansas range from 40 to 79 percent, with an average of 59 percent. Both protein and TDN are highest in the very youngest, most tender leaves, and decrease rapidly as plants elongate with maturity and contain a higher proportion of stem. Haying or grazing intervals longer than 4 to 6 weeks may produce higher tonnages of forage, but lower quality and palatability will result in lower forage intakes and lower animal performance per pound of forage eaten.



Bermudagrass photo by University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service

"Take Care of the Land and the Land will Take Care of You"

LOOK -----> The Rich Mtn Conservation District is pleased to announce the winners of this year's conservation district scholarships:

-Kelcy Frachiseur of Cossatot River High School was awarded a \$1,000 college scholarship for a current high school senior. Kelcy will be attending Southern Arkansas University at Magnolia this fall and working toward a degree in Agriculture Business.

-Madison Blair of the University of Arkansas-Rich Mtn and was awarded a \$1,000 college scholarship for a current college student. Madison will be attending the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville this fall and working toward a degree in Animal Science.



Kelcy Frachiseur



Madison Blair

Kelcy will also be competing for the Arkansas Association of Conservation Districts (AACD) scholarship contest as well.

Kelcy & Madison, we would like to wish you much success in your education and are very honored to be able to assist you in your goals! And thank you to everyone in the community who supported the district's nut sales last fall.

The Rich Mtn Conservation District is now accepting applications for a Water Quality Technician/Education Coordinator

This is a full-time position serving the citizens of Polk and Montgomery County as a staff member of the Rich Mountain Conservation District. This position is for a Water Quality Technician that will also be a source of education and outreach for the public, on natural resource issues. The main function of this position is to assist poultry producers in Polk and Montgomery County with implementing nutrient management conservation planning by preparing Nutrient Management Plans. This position also coordinates and implements educational and outreach information, activities, and meetings. Pay starts at \$11/hr and there are employment benefits such as retirement, paid leave, and health insurance.

Resumes must be received at the district office at 508 7th St in Mena by 4:30 pm on May 27th, 2022. For more information contact Deanna Wright at 479-437-6054 or email richmountainconservation@gmail.com.

Upcoming Grazing Meetings and Seminars:

⇒ **May 17, 2022 – Pollinators Role in the Pasture System (1PM—online seminar)**

You are invited to attend the weekly grazing training sessions by Jeremy Huff, the

USDA/NRCS state grazing specialist. He offers these training sessions as a Zoom meeting and the instructions for logging in are included in attached flyer. If you have the Zoom app on your phone you can just scan the QR code on the flyer. If you want to watch the presentation on your computer there is a link included in the attachment. The sessions are normally every Tuesday at 1pm so **see flyer below**.

⇒ **May 20-21, 2022 – 2022 Beef
Stockman & Stewardship**

Topics include: cattle handling and care, nutrition, environmental stewardship, herd health. To be held at the Wickes Community Center 9:30am-2:30pm with a meal provided. For more information contact the Polk County Extension Office at 479-394-6018 or by email at sbeaty@uada.edu See flyer below.

**May 24, 2022 – Double OO Ranch:
Ryegrass and Cereal
Rye/Vetch/Crimson Clover
Establishment and Grazing**

Demonstration (1PM-online seminar)

You are invited to attend the weekly grazing training sessions by Jeremy Huff, the USDA/NRCS state grazing specialist. He offers these training sessions as a Zoom meeting and the instructions for logging in are included in attached flyer. If you have the Zoom app on your phone you can just scan the QR code on the flyer. If you want to watch the presentation on your computer there is a link included in the attachment. The sessions are normally every Tuesday at 1pm so **see flyer below**.

⇒ **May 24-June 16, 2022 – Wild Turkey and Bobwhite Quail Field Day Tours**

The Arkansas Game & Fish Commission has planned several field day tours around the state with one of those being near Mena on 5/24/2022 at 1pm. A flyer is attached that show the other dates and locations around Arkansas. You can register for the tour by clicking here: <https://www.register-ed.com/events/view/178225>. For more information contact the West Central Arkansas Private

Lands Biologist for AGFC, Michelle Furr, at 479-478-1043 or by email at michelle.furr@agfc.ar.gov.

**Rich Mountain
Conservation
District**

Email:

richmountainconservation@gmail.com

Web: www.rmcd.org

Phone: (479)437-6054

Mail: 508 7th Street, Mena, AR 71953

Take a picture with your cell phone to visit the RMCD website —>



DID YOU KNOW?

Archived copies of the "POLK COUNTY GRAZIER" are now available on the Rich Mtn. Conservation District website at:

[Publications - Rich Mountain Conservation District \(rmcd.org\)](http://rmcd.org)

Sent on behalf of the Rich Mtn Conservation District.

Thanks for your interest in grazing management and conservation,

Steve Swall

District Conservationist

USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service

Mena Service Center (Polk & Montgomery Counties)

(479)437-6054

Please reply to unsubscribe if you do not wish to receive this newsletter.

The Tuesday Pasture Talk

Learn about Pasture
Topics with us



Anyone is
welcome to join



May 3, 2022
1:00pm CST

Conventional Tillage Seed
Bed Preparation
Demonstration for Pasture

Presenter: Jeremy Huff, AR
NRCS State Grazing Lands
Specialist

May 10, 2022
1:00pm CST

Forage Advisor Web
Application Demonstration

Presenter: Dr. John
Jennings, Professor/Forage
Specialist, University
of Arkansas

May 17, 2022
1:00pm CST

Pollinator's Role in the
Pasture System

Presenter: Xavier Price, AR
NRCS NW Area Grassland
Specialist

May 24, 2022
1:00pm CST

Double OO Ranch: Ryegrass and
Cereal Rye/Vetch/Crimson Clover
Establishment and Grazing
Demonstration

Presenter: Sandy Jackson,
Owner; Sam Tabler, Forage
Manager, and Jeremy Huff, State
Grazing Lands Specialist

Expect to Learn:



What does a seedbed need to look
like prior to planting bermudagrass
seed?



Do you want to make grazing calculations easy?
Tune-in to learn about University of Arkansas's
new forage advisor web application.



Are pasture clovers beneficial for pollinators?
Hear what a bee expert has to say!



Watch a video demonstration from September
2021 to May 2022 on the establishment and
grazing of ryegrass and a combination of cereal
rye, vetch, and crimson clover.

Join by these Methods:

Direct Link:

[Click Here
to Join](#)

Phone:



Website:

Zoom
Meeting ID: 869
6752 1953
Passcode: 440061

Questions or
Comments:

jeremy.huff@usda.gov
or (501) 413-0527



MAY 20TH OR 21ST

**CLASSROOM &
OUTDOOR
ACTIVITIES**

MEAL PROVIDED

2022

BEEF STOCKMAN & STEWARDSHIP

**Wickes Community
Center 9:30a- 2:30p
Limit 25 people/day
Register by May 11th**

REGISTRATION:

(479)394-6018

Topics will include

**Cattle Handling & Care
Biosecurity
Herd Health
Transportation
Nutrition
Environmental Stewardship**

**Worker Safety
Emergency Action Plan**

**You will be BQA Certified at
completion**

Wild Turkey and Bobwhite Quail Field Day Tours

May 24th - June 16th

Locations include:

Mena, AR - May 24, 2022

<https://www.register-ed.com/events/view/178225>

Yellville, AR - May 26, 2022

<https://www.register-ed.com/events/view/178147>

Sherwood, AR - June 7, 2022

<https://www.register-ed.com/events/view/178193>

Pocahontas, AR - June 9, 2022

<https://www.register-ed.com/events/view/179941>

Hickory Plains, AR - June 15, 2022

<https://www.register-ed.com/events/view/181518>

Huntsville, AR - June 16, 2022

<https://www.register-ed.com/events/view/181489>

