

POLK COUNTY GRAZIER

September 27, 2022



*An eNewsletter by the Rich Mountain
Conservation District*

The below article is reprinted from the September 2022 issue of the Polk County Cooperative Extension Service office newsletter and was provided by Sherry-Beaty Sullivan, County Extension Agent - Staff Chair. Her office can be reached by phone: (479)394-6018, email: polk@uada.edu or office: 211 DeQueen St, Mena. Click here to reach the UAEX web site> [University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service \(uada.edu\)](http://uada.edu) for a lot of very good information.

Alternatives to Traditional Winter Feeding

Winter is right around the corner, and if you're dreading traditional hay feeding, there are other alternatives for you to consider. Stockpiling warm-season perennials (bermudagrass or bahiagrass) or planting winter pastures are among these options and are often a more profitable solution for livestock operations.

Stockpiling

In this system, forages are allowed to accumulate in the field during the fall and early winter. Stockpiled bermuda can provide the required nutrition for dry, pregnant cows through January, if managed as follows. Producers should plan on providing approximately 45 to 60 days of grazing with dormant bermuda. In most instances, stockpiled bermuda should be used up by January. Once stockpiled bermuda is completely grazed, a shift to another winter-feeding option is required.

Adequate moisture combined with appropriate fertilization is required to produce the desired bermudagrass quantity and nutritive value. If fertilizer is not applied after cutting or grazing in August, producers may still take advantage of accumulated forage during the fall. There will not be as much forage accumulated and forage nutritive value will be lower. The forage, however, may still be utilized, providing appropriate supplementation is provided. If adequate moisture is not received during September, October, and November, little bermudagrass will be produced and grazing initiation may be delayed. Steps to stockpiling include:

1. Graze pasture to a 2-3 inch stubble height or harvest the final cutting of hay in preparation for fertilization approximately 8 weeks prior to the first anticipated frost.
2. Apply 60-75 pounds of Nitrogen. Phosphorus and potassium should be applied based on soil test recommendations.
3. Defer pastures from grazing and allow forage to accumulate until frost or forage is needed.
4. Initiate grazing in response to the need for hay supplementation.
5. When stockpiled forage is completely grazed, it will be time to start traditional hay-feeding or initiate cool-season forages.
6. Be sure to provide free choice mineral supplement to cattle and monitor body condition.

Winter Pasture

Along with stockpiled forage, utilization of winter pastures can help reduce winter feeding costs. Planted winter pastures provide the highest quality forage that can be grown throughout the southeastern U.S. They include small grains, annual ryegrass, and cool-season legumes. Grazing of winter pastures can extend from November to early June depending on location, varieties used, planting method, and planting date. The type and amount

of winter pasture used should be planned carefully because of the expense associated with land preparation, seed, and fertilizer.

Oats, wheat, rye, triticale, and annual ryegrass are the annual grasses most often used for winter pastures. Rye is the most cold-tolerant, followed by wheat, ryegrass, and oats. Rye is the earliest to mature, followed by wheat, oats, and ryegrass. Ryegrass will provide four to six weeks extra grazing in the spring due to its later maturity. Ryegrass is the most productive. However, location, unusually cold temperatures, or dry conditions during different times of the growing season can alter the species ranking in production.

Forage legumes such as clovers and vetch are also used for winter pasture. The advantages of a legume are that it doesn't require nitrogen fertilizers it can remove nitrogen from the air and it is very high quality forage. The disadvantage of cool-season legumes is that 75-90% of the total forage production does not occur until spring. For this reason, ryegrass is mixed with clover to provide earlier forage production.

Management

Estimating how many acres to establish is dependent on the class of animal and climate. The actual stocking rate might be higher or lower depending on weather and management. A pasture should be stocked properly in the fall so there will be a carryover forage into the winter when forage production is limited by cold, short, cloudy days. Proper stocking for fall and winter will result in excess forage in the spring. A producer needs to use this excess forage wisely. Additional livestock can be added in the spring, or the excess growth can be harvested for hay. Excess spring growth on overseeded pastures should be utilized so that warm-season perennial grass is not crowded out.

Winter pasture should be planted from mid-September through October. Earlier plantings result in greater early forage production if moisture is available. The earlier the planting, the higher the risk that the stand could be lost to drought. September plantings should be in a prepared seedbed to reduce weed and grass competition and provide good placement of seed in the soil.

Fertilization of winter pasture should be based on a soil test to maximize production and prevent applying excess fertilizer. Soil analysis will also provide pH, which is especially critical in when establishing legumes. Ryegrass a minimum pH of 5.7 and clover a pH of 6.0 for good fertilizer utilization and forage production. Lime needs to be applied in the spring to raise the pH by fall.

All forages intended for fall and winter does not have to be harvested as hay. Alternative management strategies that target grazing in stockpiling forages can minimize hay feeding. The amount of forage that can be stockpiled will be dependent on fertility and weather. Winter pastures can be a profitable component of pasture systems throughout the southeastern U.S. their greatest attribute is the production of high-quality forage that is superior to warm-season forages.






To be profitable, attention must be paid to variety selection, planting dates, seeding rates, fertilizer and proper utilization. Winter pastures can reduce the amount of hay and supplements needed during the winter-feeding period and provide spring weed control.

Drought Monitor

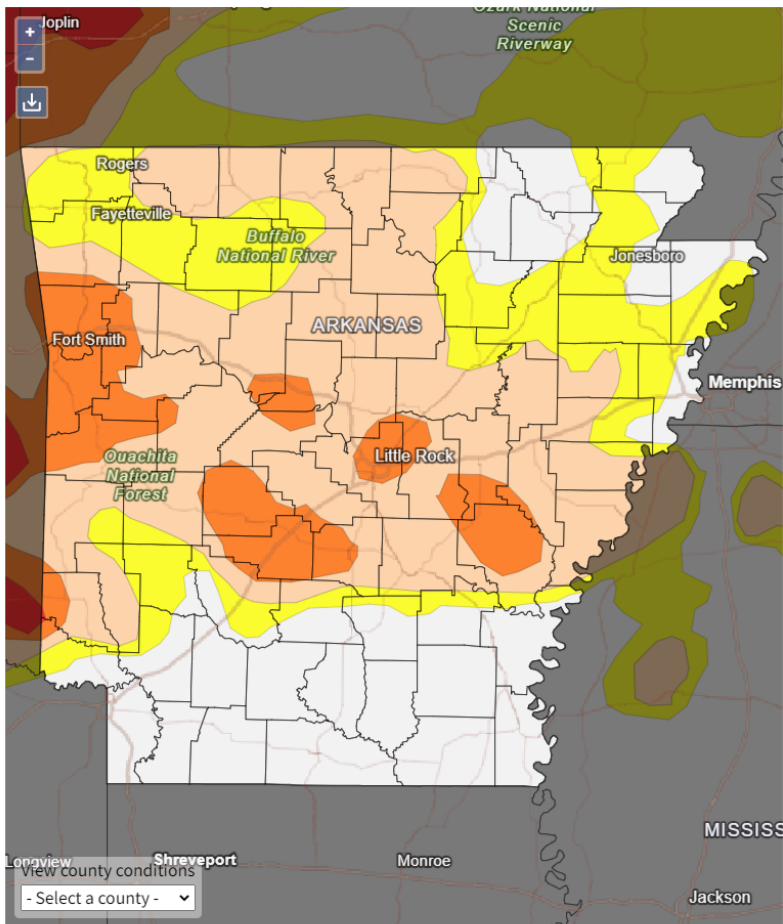
The most recent version (9/20/2022) of the drought monitor shows most of Polk and Montgomery Counties to be in a D1 (Moderate Drought) with smaller areas being D0 (Abnormally Dry) and D2 (Severe Drought). A new version should be released on September 29th. You can go to the drought monitor site by clicking here: [Arkansas | Drought.gov](https://www.arkansas.gov/drought/)

The U.S. Drought Monitor (USDM) is updated each Thursday to show the location and intensity of drought across the country. This map shows drought conditions across Arkansas using a five-category system, from Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions to Exceptional Drought (D4). The USDM is a joint effort of the National Drought Mitigation Center, USDA, and NOAA. [Learn more.](#)

The following state-specific drought impacts were compiled by the [National Drought Mitigation Center](#). While these impacts are not exhaustive, they can help provide a clearer picture of drought in Arkansas.

| | |
|--|---|
|  <p>D0 - Abnormally Dry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire danger increases | <p>72.0% of AR (D0-D4)</p> |
|  <p>D1 - Moderate Drought</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forage crops are stunted • River levels decline • More wildfires occur than normal | <p>51.2% of AR (D1-D4)</p> |
|  <p>D2 - Severe Drought</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crops are negatively impacted; some crops are not planted; hay yield is low; farmers begin feeding cattle early • Burn bans begin • Reservoirs decline; rivers are very low; rivers are dredged | <p>11.6% of AR (D2-D4)</p> |
|  <p>D3 - Extreme Drought</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastures are depleted; hay is short; cattle are sold • There are more insects than normal; trees show drought stress; wildlife seek food and water • Water shortages are noted; water table is low; stock ponds are dry | <p>0.0% of AR (D3-D4)</p> |
|  <p>D4 - Exceptional Drought</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crops have little or no yield; cattle weights are low; milk production is low • Trees and wildlife are dying • Daily life is impacted for outdoor workers | <p>0% of AR (D4)</p> |

Source(s): [NDMC](#), [NOAA](#), [USDA](#)



Updates Weekly - 09/20/22

You can report drought conditions to the National Drought Mitigation Center here > [Drought Condition Monitoring Observations and Reports 2022 \(arcgis.com\)](https://www.arcgis.com)

**DON'T FORGET!----->Polk County
Approved for LFP**

The Polk County FSA Office has been notified that, on July 26, 2022, Polk County rated a D3 on the Drought Monitor and met the requirements to Administer the Livestock Feed Program (LFP). Polk County FSA is taking applications for the 2022 LFP Program.

For additional information, contact the local FSA Office at (479) 394-1933 or stop by the office at 508 7th Street in Mena.

*"A true conservationist is a man
who knows that the world is not
given by his fathers,
but borrowed from his children."*

— John James Audubon



The Rich Mtn Conservation District recently held a grazing management workshop on the farm of Duane and Dot Webb in the Holly Springs community. Several livestock producers from Polk and Montgomery Counties were in attendance and discussed how grazing affects soil health, some grazing management options to reduce hay feeding, as well as services and programs provided by the RMCD, USDA, and UAEX. A special thank you to Duane Webb who also spoke about his experiences in reducing his hay feeding with the use of stockpiling, strip grazing, winter annuals, and proper rotations. Also, thanks to all the attendees for taking the time to be there and learn. Unfortunately, it got dark on us before we were able to finish and so we are planning a follow up workshop next spring, so reply if you'd like to attend.

Upcoming Grazing Meetings and Seminars:

✓ **TODAY!** September 27, 2022 –
Demonstration: Calibration of a No-Till Drill for Planting

Presenter: Ben Holleman & Stephen Haller,
Booneville Plant Materials Center (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 the attached flyer.**

✓ **October 7-8, 2022 – Holist Management
Principles and Practices**

Presenter: NCAT & HMI,
Hope, Arkansas (9am – 3pm
daily)

Free interactive workshop about setting holistic
goals and stewarding your land and livestock.
Contact Kandy Williams at (870)571-9428 or
williamska@uapb.edu for more information or
register at: [Events – Soil for Water.](#)

**Don't forget to order your
nuts by October 15th!**

**Proceeds benefit students in Polk County who are planning or working on
a degree in agriculture or conservation**



Rich Mountain Conservation District
 508 7th St. Mena, AR 71953
 Phone: 479-437-6054

Fax: 855-655-8286 Attn: RMCD
 Email: richmountainconservation@gmail.com

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Business: _____

**Taking orders until
 October 15, 2022**

**Orders will arrive in time for
 Thanksgiving Baking!!**

Order Total: \$ _____



All proceeds go to
 scholarships for Polk
 County students!



| 2022 Annual Scholarship Nut Sale | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------|-------|
| Pecan Halves | 1 lb. Bag | 9.25 |
| Pecan Pieces | 1lb. Bag | 8.75 |
| Pecan Halves | 5 lb. bulk | 43.00 |
| Pecan Pieces | 5lb. Bulk | 41.25 |
| Praline Pecans | 1lb. Bag | 8.75 |
| White Chocolate Pecans | 1lb. Bag | 9.00 |
| Chocolate Amaretto Pecan Halves | 1lb. Bag | 9.00 |
| Dark Chocolate Pecan Halves | 1lb. Bag | 9.00 |
| Milk Chocolate Pecans | 1lb. Bag | 9.00 |
| Deluxe Mixed Nuts | 1lb. Bag | 7.75 |
| Raw Peanuts | 1lb. Bag | 4.75 |
| Double Dipped Chocolate Peanuts | 1lb. Bag | 6.75 |
| Chocolate Almonds | 1lb. Bag | 7.50 |
| Whole Cashews Roasted/Salted | 1lb. Bag | 8.25 |
| English Walnut Halves & Pieces | 1lb. Bag | 7.00 |
| Chocolate Raisins | 1lb. Bag | 6.25 |
| Gourmet Pecan Log Rolls | 7 oz. per roll | 6.75 |
| *Conservation Sampler | 8 (1lb. Bag) | 57.50 |
| Dill Pickle Peanuts | 10 oz. can | 7.75 |
| Jalapeno Peanuts | 10 oz. can | 7.75 |
| Salt & Vinegar Peanuts | 10 oz. can | 7.75 |
| Southern Heat Peanuts | 10 oz. can | 7.75 |

*Includes: Pecan Halves, Cashews, Honey Roasted Peanuts, Choc Halves, Chocolate Peanuts, Chocolate Almonds, Walnuts

****Notice: We are now accepting credit cards. There will be a surcharge of 3% applied to**

Order form is attached

The Rich Mtn Conservation District has equipment available for rent to landowners in Polk County:

SUNFLOWER NO TILL DRILL

\$10 ACRE, \$50 MINIMUM

TYE NO TILL DRILL

\$10 ACRE, \$50 MINIMUM

HOG TRAP

\$100 DEPOSIT (RESTRICTIONS APPLY)

RHINO POST DRIVER

\$150 PER WEEK (5 days) with a \$100 deposit

3 POINT CYCLONE SEEDER (NEW!)

\$75.00 per week (5 days) with a \$50 deposit

Building electric fence?

We have a spinning jenny & electric fence tester available for landowners use

Please contact Deanna at (479)437-6054 for more information or to make a reservation. Note: the available days for the no till drills are filling up fast for this fall so call and make arrangements as soon as possible! Most winter annuals such as Ryegrass, Wheat, or Cereal Rye should be planted between September 1 and November 1 but September 15-October 15 is usually optimum.

**Know someone who would enjoy receiving
this newsletter?**

Please feel free to forward it to them and have them contact our office to be on the mailing list in the future!

**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



September 13, 2022
1:00pm CST

Annual Ryegrass:
Varieties and Planting
Demonstration

Presenter: Jeremy
Huff, State Grazing
Lands Specialist, AR
NRCS

September 20, 2022
1:00pm CST

How Dry I Am!
Drought Recovery and
Preparation for the Next One

Presenter: Dr. David Fernandez,
Extension Livestock Specialist & Interim
Dean, University of Arkansas Pine Bluff

September 27, 2022
1:00pm CST

Demonstration:
Calibration of a No-Till
Drill for Planting

Presenter: Ben Holleman,
Technician & Stephen
Haller, Manager,
Booneville Plant Materials
Center

Expect to Learn:



The difference between diploid and tetraploid ryegrass. What selection criteria should you consider?



Producer friendly strategies for drought preparedness, forage recovery, and mitigation of future droughts.



Watch a no-till drill being calibrated for cool season annual grass establishment.

Join by these Methods:

Direct Link:

[Click
Here To
Join](#)

Phone:



Website:

Zoom
Meeting ID: 857 3080 1967
Passcode: 728733

Questions or
Comments:

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



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 508 7th St. Mena, AR 71953
 Phone: 479-437-6054

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