Bermuda Grass Hay Management

I have to give credit for these tips to Robert Seay and all the producers he worked with on the Quality Forage Program over the years. Robert put together this management guideline for quality Bermuda hay production with the help of those who worked with him. If you want to produce high quality Bermuda hay, you will be right more times than you are wrong if you follow this management calendar.

October-February: Soil test, especially for pH and potassium.

March-April: Remove old Bermuda grass stubble. Control weed competition. (By the time you receive this newsletter it may be getting close to too late to use Round-up or other Glyphosate products on dormant Bermuda. Blair Griffin in Johnson County uses the red bud trees as a guide. If you see red bud trees blooming, better use something else. Pastora, Cimarron, or the other metsulfuron products do a good job of cleaning up junk off a Bermuda stand and they are non-restricted safe options.)

Mid-April: Apply 60-100 pounds actual nitrogen and 60 pounds actual potassium, or fertilize as noted on soil test. (150 lbs. per acre of urea or 200 pounds per acre of ammonium nitrate will supply the needed nitrogen, then add 100 lbs. of Potash or 0-0-60 to supply the needed potassium)

May 20-June 1: Complete first harvest. Fertilize again with similar N and K rates as listed above.

June 20-July1: Complete second harvest. Fertilize again as noted above, or as growing conditions permit.

Mid-June-Sept: Note variations in forage growth at various areas in the fields.

Early August: Complete third harvest. Perform rain dance. Fertilize again as growing conditions allow.

October: Complete fourth harvest and sample all cuttings.

Re-test soil in all fields as suggested above, especially areas where growth patterns (good or bad) were observed. Compare soil test results to corresponding hay yields and quality to note fertility adjustments that may be indicated.
Cool Season Pasture Fertilization

Of course being a county agent, we’re required to suggest a soil test before most anything on the farm is done. However, right now it takes about 3-4 weeks to get the results back on those.

Pasture fertilization is very different from hay fertilization. Nearly all the phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) is recycled through the animals on pasture. So once the levels of these 2 nutrients reach a certain level, very little needs to be added from that point on if it is a pasture. Also, any cubes that are fed, or hay that is fed on the field, adds phosphorus and potassium back to the pasture.

So, for most folks, simply adding 125 – 150 pounds of urea per acre or 175 pounds per acre of ammonium nitrate will get your fields started off strong. Now is a great time to fertilize all those cool season forages. Wait another month or so to stimulate the warm seasons.

Pesticide Applicator Training

**Note this is a date change.** The next training this spring (and this is the last one currently scheduled) will take place on Tuesday, April 5th at 6:30 at the Extension office. There will not be a training on Tuesday, May 3rd. This is the required training to receive your Private Applicator license or renew your current license. Cost of the class is $10. Fees for the actual license are mailed separately to the Plant Board.

NAP Insurance

The deadline to purchase NAP insurance for pastures and hay fields through the Farm Service Agency is March 15th. Contact their office at 479-442-4160 for more information or to make an appointment to sign up.

Benton County 4-H Beef Quiz Bowl Team Wins State Competition

Our 4-H Beef Quiz Bowl team made up of Kimberly Kay, Josh Kay, Alisun Watson, and Alex Joyce beat 27 other teams in a double elimination bracket style contest to win the state title. Teams are asked questions from a wide range of forage, cattle, beef industry, food safety and meat topics.

Nutrient Applicator Training

We’re working to schedule a class for those needing to be certified to be legal to spread either blended fertilizers or litter as a fertilizer, please contact our office and make sure we have you on the list. Class will most likely be held in April. Cost for a private license is $35.
Benton County Ag Day – A Celebration of Agriculture in Benton County.

We’re working to promote the importance of agriculture in Benton County. Our Extension staff along with several other organizations have put together a day to promote Ag in our county to elected officials, business folks, and others. Our event will be held **Tuesday, March 15th** at the NWACC campus to celebrate National Agriculture Day. Governor Asa Hutchinson will be the key note speaker. Others include Dorn Winninger, VP Produce and Floral, Wal-Mart; Delia Haak, Illinois River Watershed Partnership; John Pennington, Beaver Watershed Alliance; and Brent Butler, Benton County Farm Family of the Year. Program begins at 1:00.

Please visit the Facebook page at [https://www.facebook.com/events/101041406948729/](https://www.facebook.com/events/101041406948729/) or google National Ag Day in Benton County. Come and bring a non-farmer with you.

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**Spring Turn-Out Tune-Up**

**2:00 Friday, April 1st, 2016**, Benton County Fairgrounds, 7640 SW Regional Airport Blvd
Bentonville, Arkansas

**Registration begins at 1:00**

**2:00 Horn Fly Control**; Get ahead of the game this year. Dr. Justin Talley, Associate Professor – Entomology; OSU Extension

**2:50 Recommended Vaccinations and practices for spring time animal health**; Andi Carlton, Animal Health Representative, Boehringer-Ingelheim

**3:20 Mineral programs to meet your needs and update on the new Veterinary Feed Directive**; What are my options on feeding anti-biotics? Daniel Martin, Livestock Production Specialist, Purina

**4:00 Break**

**4:20 The Effects of Fescue on Animal Performance** – when is it good, when is it bad, what are my options? Johnny Gunsaulis, County Extension Agent – Staff Chair, Benton County

**4:40 Starting Now to Work Toward 300 days of Grazing**, Dr. John Jennings, Professor – Forage, University of Arkansas Ext. Specialist,

**5:30 Top tips for balage and silage production**; Tim Schnakenberg, Agronomy Specialist, University of Missouri Extension,

**Ends with dinner at 6:00** Provided by Arvest Bank
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Johnny Gunsaulis
Staff Chair
CEA - Agriculture

Our Mission
The mission of the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service is to provide research-based information through non-formal education to help Arkansans improve their economic well-being and the quality of their lives.