

Round-Up Newsletter

Reminder... Our warm season grasses, for every ton of Hay removed, take 40lbs of N, 10 lbs. of P, and 40 lbs. of K, away from that field, and in many cases away from that farm. If you are not replacing those nutrients you are a detriment to that land, whether it is your land or someone else's land.

We are accustomed to thinking about Nitrogen Applications being required, because we can see the immediate response to a Nitrogen Application. However, keeping the K, or Potash level resupplied in the soil is just as important, maybe more so because if the K level is low the Nitrogen won't be able to do what it naturally does.

You can see that without a soil test and continually using 13-13-13, the P levels will build up and we are spending fertilizer dollars on an element that we are not using. Current soil analysis will give a nutrient level in easy to understand terms, based upon the crop that you intend to grow, i.e.: above optimum, optimum, medium, low, and very low.

The good thing about applying Potash (K) is that it will stay where it is applied until it is taken up by the plant. We don't have to worry about volatilization or loss to the air as we might with some forms of Nitrogen. Frequently producers will split the Potash and put out half with the first N application, and the remainder with the last Nitrogen Application.

I guess the hardest thing to get a producer to do is to put out a fertilizer application in August, because they are afraid they will lose a little Nitrogen. Of course you are going to lose a lot of Hay production if you always wait until conditions are perfect, which we have almost had this year, other than a late start. With the protective products, now available, that prevent Urea from volatilizing, we don't need to let that be a hold back anymore. We can still put out NITROGEN on warm season grasses until mid-September.

Do I Really Need LIME

I haven't mentioned LIME, but you all know that Lime is even more important than Fertilizer. If the PH is either too high or too low, certain elements are TIED UP, and not available to the plant. For our Warm Season Grasses a PH of 5.8-6.5 is needed, and if clovers are present 6.0-6.5 is needed.

I am Borrowing some data from my friend Brad Runsick , Fulton County Agent

FORAGE LIME DEMONSTRATION RESULTS

Brad Runsick, Fulton County Extension Agent

Two demonstration plots are currently ongoing here in the county. One of those is the multi-year, lime demonstration plots where we are measuring the difference in changes in soil pH with various lime materials from different sources and the application rate/acre. pH is perhaps the 2nd most limiting factor to forage growth in our area, just behind rainfall. But, unlike precipitation, it is one we can

actually control, and doing so in an effective economical way is one of the foundations of a good farm forage program. A quality liming is a big investment, so we want to get it right.

These plots initially sampled out to an average pH of 5.3 back in January 2016, and the soil test recommended 2 tons lime/acre. This is for lime with an ECCE % of 47% (AVERAGE ARKANSAS QUALITY LIME). As you can see, treatments 2-8 are very close to that; 9-15 were applied with significantly higher quality lime. Every load of lime leaving the quarry, will have an analysis showing the ECCE, Effective Calcium Carbonate Equivalent.

This PH is below what we would be ideal for grass growth, and well below what we would like it to be for forage legumes. So, it was an ideal spot for some test plots. The lime applications (table below) were made in late January, and to date, follow up sampling has been done at 3 weeks after application and 3 months after application.

Since lime can take 3-6 months to fully break down and actually change the pH in the soil, we are sampling these plots at 3 weeks after treatment, 3 months after treatment (MAT), 6 MAT, 9 MAT, 12 MAT, 18 MAT, 24 MAT, and 36 MAT. The current results are in Chart 1.

Treatment Lime rate (lbs/acre) Cost/Acre Treatment Lime rate (lbs./acre Cost/Acre

1. Check – no lime 0 n/a	9. Pelletized lime (64% ECCE) 100 \$10.00
2. Pelleted lime (46% ECCE) 100 \$11.20	10. Pelletized lime (64% ECCE) 500 \$50.00
3. Pelleted lime (46% ECCE) 500 \$56.00	11. Pelletized lime (64% ECCE) 1000 \$100.00
4. Pelleted lime (46% ECCE) 1000 \$112.00	12. Ag lime (77% ECCE) 2000 \$40.00
5. Ag lime (53% ECCE) 2000 \$10.30	13. Ag lime (77% ECCE) 4000 \$80.00
6. Ag lime (53% ECCE) 4000 \$20.60	14. Ag lime (77% ECCE) 6000 \$120.00
7. Ag lime (53% ECCE) 6000 \$30.90	15. Ag lime (77% ECCE) 8000 \$160.00
8. Ag lime (53% ECCE) 8000 \$41.20	

As of these results, it is still 3 months out from where we'd expect the final pH to settle, but there can be a few takeaways this early. By and large, the pelletized lime, at the rates applied, does not match the neutralizing power of the ag lime. One of the claimed benefits of pelletized lime is that it works faster. Thus far, this study does not support that. Pelletized lime plots have, thus far, failed to reach the

optimum pH of 5.8. The Ag lime treatment at the soil test recommendation of 2 tons /acre, at 3 months after treatment, has shown a rise in PH above the recommended PH for Grasses.

ARMYWORMS

I have attached information on Armyworms. We need to be scouting fields, especially highly productive Bermudagrass Fields, because armyworms can destroy a field quickly.

If your field will be ready to cut in a week or less you might be able to get by with the cheaper Pyrethroids, however if you have all sizes of worms and grass is over a week away from harvest, better go with one of the longer residual insecticides.

Remember, pyrethroid insecticides such as Karate® (lambda-cyhalothrin), Mustang Max® (zetacypermethrin) and Baythroid XL (beta-cyfluthrin) have shorter-duration residual activity. They may be less expensive, but not last as long.

In contrast, other products such as Prevathon® (chlorantraniliprole), Besiege® (chlorantraniliprole and lambda-cyhalothrin) and Intrepid® (methoxyfenozide)) do have longer-duration residual activity and can reduce the number of applications necessary to produce a hay crop.

VACCINATIONS

Stop what you are doing and go vaccinate your CALVES for Blackleg. A 7- way Clostridial is the same thing. It is too dangerous a disease to take a chance. If the vaccine you use calls for a BOOSTER SHOT make sure to do it.

STOCKPILING BERMUDAGRASS

I don't remember an August this good in terms of Grass availability, BUT, things can change quickly.

One way to conserve grass is to clip that old grazed over grass off NOW, and fertilize, then let it rest until you really have to have it in November, to delay Hay Feeding. By the way how is your Hay quality ?

First Cutting was late which means lower Quality, as far as TDN, Energy or Calories per bale . That is what keeps the fire in the belly in the winter time. Hopefully second Cutting was made on time and will be better. If you are only making 2 cutting each year, the quality will never be good enough to provide winter nutrition without supplementation. The only (legal) way to make Cattle Farming pay is to grow, and harvest, good enough grass to keep from having to buy excess supplementation. Then you still have to watch all your p's and q's.

