



Pasture Production: ***How to Start Growing***

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Did you think about your pasture before buying your land?

I bought a farm in Florida with five acres and want to have livestock.

What should I do?

- How many animals can I have on the farm?
- I want to have three horses, two cows, and chickens.
 - Animal Units in Florida
- Am I allowed to use all five acres?
- How is the area?
- Where will I place my animals?
 - Rotational vs. Continuous Grazing (*Caitlin*)
 - Paddocks



“Good forage planning can help reduce feeding costs, environmental impacts, and nutritional disorders caused by high-concentrate feeding.”

Wallau et.al 2019

How much food do my animals need?

A horse weighing 1,000 lbs. would require 1.5–2.5% of its bodyweight

- 15–25 lbs. of dry matter per day,
- 50–100 lbs. of fresh feed per day

M. Wallau, E. L. Johnson, J. Vendramini, C. Wickens, and C. Bainum, 2019



How much food do my animals need?

A beef cow weighing 1,000 lbs. would require 1.8–2.7% of its bodyweight

- Calving Period
 - Peak Milk
 - DMI: 21-23 lb/d (10 lbs), 21-25 lb/d (30 lbs), 21-28 lb/d (30 lbs)
 - Fresh Pasture: 70-92 lb/d (10 lbs), 70-100 lb/d (30 lbs), 70-112 lb/d (30 lbs)

A beef cow weighing 1,000 lbs. would require 2.1–2.3% of its bodyweight

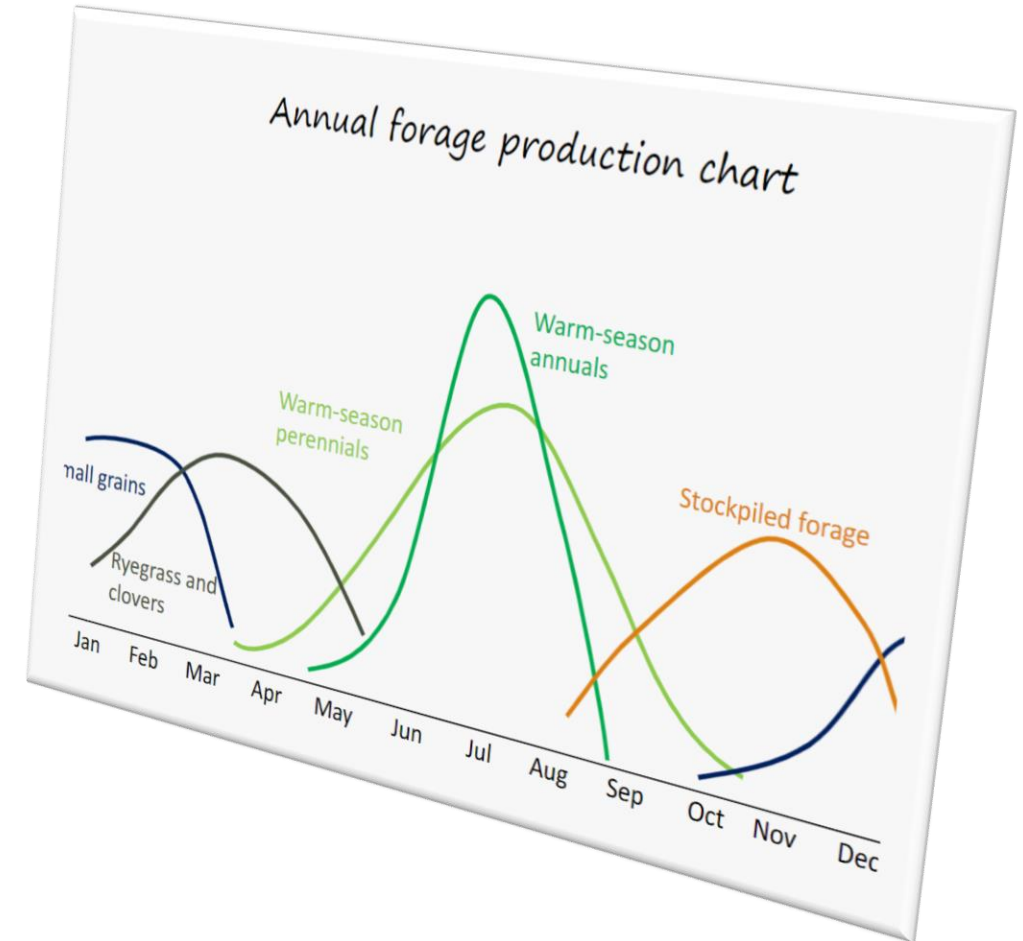
- Average Daily Gain
 - 21 DMI (1 lb/d) (70 lb/daily fresh pasture)
 - 22 DMI (2 lb/d)
 - 23 DMI (3 lb/d) (92 lb/daily fresh pasture)



Choosing the Right Forage Species and Cultivar

Warm-season

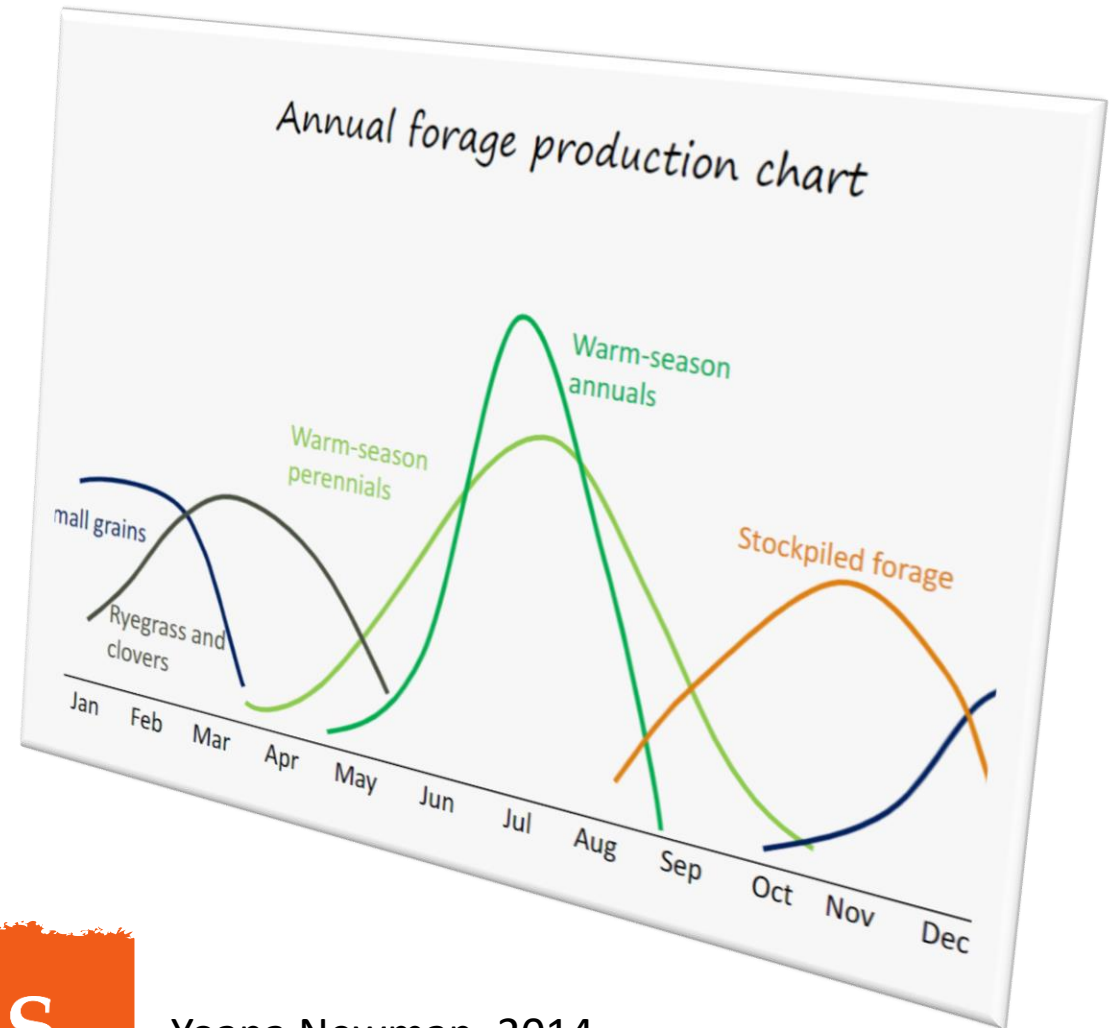
- **Perennial grasses**
 - (Bahia grass, Bermuda, Stargrass, Limpograss, Digitgrass, Rhodgrass, Elephantgrass)
- **Annual Grasses**
 - (Pearl Millet, **Sorghum)
- **Perennial legumes**
 - (Rhizoma Peanut, FL Carpon Desmodium)
- **Annual Season Legumes**
 - (Aeschynomene, Alyceclover)



Choosing the Right Forage Species and Cultivar

Cool-Season

- **Grasses**
 - Ryegrass
- **Small Grains**
 - (Oats wheat, Triticale)
- **Legumes**
 - Alfalfa
 - Clovers
 - Vetch



Forage species	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Productivity* (lb DM/acre)
Limpograss													9000-12000
Pensacola Bahiagrass													3000-10000
Argentine Bahiagrass													5000-14000
Hybrid Bermudagrass													7000-14000
Pearl Millet													5000-10000
Rye													2000-5000
Oat													2000-5000
Annual Ryegrass													2000-5000
Alfalfa													5000-8000
Arrowleaf clover													2000-4000
Crimson Clover													2000-4000
White clover													2000-4000

*estimate range or total productivity, in lb of Dry Matter/acre; actual values depend on cultivar, environment and management; consider using 50% for perennials and 60% for annuals

Planting Dates, Seeding Rates, and Planting Depths for Common Forage Crops Planted from Seed in Florida

Season	Forage crops planted from seed ^a	Planting dates	Seeding rates (lb/A broadcast)	Planting depths (inches)
Fall ^b	Alfalfa	Oct 1–Dec 15	15–20	¼–½
	Clover			
	Arrowleaf	Oct 1–Dec 15	8–12	¼–½
	Berseem	Oct 1–Dec 15	15–20	¼–½
	Crimson	Oct 1–Dec 15	20–25	¼–½
	Red	Oct 1–Dec 15	10–15	¼–½
	Rose	Oct 1–Dec 15	15–20	¼–½
	Subterranean	Oct 1–Dec 15	12–22	¼–½
	Sweetclover	Oct 1–Dec 15	12–15	¼–½
	White	Oct 1–Dec 15	3–4	0–¼
	Oat-forage	Sep 1–Dec 15	100–120 (3–4 bu)	1–2
	Pea			
	Austrian winter	Oct 1–Dec 15	40–60	½–1
	Rough/singletary/caley	Oct 1–Dec 15	30–40	½–1
	Rye-forage	Oct 1–Dec 15	90–120 (1.5–2.0 bu)	1–2
	Ryegrass, Italian (annual)	Oct 1–Dec 15	20–30	0–½
	Triticale-forage	Oct 1–Dec 15	84–112 (1.5–2.0 bu)	1–2
	Turnips	Oct 1–Dec 15	5–6	¼–½
	Vetch, hairy	Oct 1–Dec 15	30–35	1–2
	Wheat-forage	Oct 1–Dec 15	100–120 (1.5–2.0 bu)	1–2

Planting Dates, Seeding Rates, and Planting Depths for Common Forage Crops Planted from Seed in Florida

Spring & Summer	Alyceclover		Apr 15–June 30	15	¼–½
	Aeschynomene		Mar 30–June 30	6–8 (dehulled)	¼–½
	Bahia ^c		Feb 15–Aug 15	25–30	¼–½
	Bermudagrass		Feb 15–Aug 15	10–15	¼–½
	Corn				
		Temperate	Feb 15–Apr 15	See note ^d	
		Tropical	Apr 15–June 15	100–120 (60–90) ^e	
	Cowpea		Apr 1–July 31	35–60	1–3
	Desmodium, carpon		Feb 15–June 30	6–10	¼–½
	Indigo, hairy		Apr 1–June 30	6–10	¼–½
	Phasey bean		Mar 30–June 30	10–15	¼–½
	Vigna parkerii		Feb 15–June 30	2–5	¼–½
	Millet				
		Brown top	Feb 15–Aug 15	15–20	½–1
		Japanese	Feb 15–Aug 15	24–30	½–1
		Pearl	Mar 15–June 30	12–15	½–1
	Sorghum				
		Sorghum, forage	Apr 1–June 30	30–40 (25) ^e	1–2
		Sorghum x sudan	Mar 15–June 30	10–12	1–2
	Brachiaria, Mulato		Mar 15–Aug 15	5–10	¼–½

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Planting Dates, Seeding Rates, and Planting Depths for Common Forage Crops Planted from Seed in Florida

Food For Thought:

- Always check seed quality.
- Seed germination should be 80% or higher for best results.
- Learn how to calculate the number of pounds needed per acre.

$$\frac{\text{Pounds per Acres}}{\text{Seed Germination \%}} = \text{Number of pounds of seeds needed per acre}$$

$$\frac{25 \text{ lb/Acre (Bahia)}}{80\% \text{ of Germination}} = 31.25 \text{ lbs/acre}$$

Soil Preparation:

1. Soil Test



Soil Preparation:

2. Soil Prep



Soil Preparation (Video)



Soil Preparation:

3. Pre-emergent



Soil Preparation:

4. Plant the Seeds



Soil Preparation:

5. Apply Fertilizer After Germination



References

- **Matt Hersom and Todd Thrift. 2017. Nutritional Management of Bulls.**
<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/AN/AN21100.pdf>
- **M. O. Wallau, J. Vendramini, and Y.C. Newman. 2018. Forage Planting and Establishment Methods on Prepared Seedbed.**
- **Yoana Newman. 2002. Florida Forage Handbook: Table of Contents.**
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/AG/AG17000.pdf>

Pasture Establishment Practices



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