

PASTURES *for success!*

WEED CONTROL

1. Scouting Weeds

- Scout for weeds periodically in your pastures
- Proper identification of weeds
 - Contact your local Extension Agent if you can not identify a weed
- Try to eradicate the weed before it reaches maturity (seeds)
- Identify poisonous plants in your pastures before your livestock ingest them.



2. Weed Control

Cultural Control

Cultural practices improve weed control by increasing the competitiveness of the forage. Involves optimizing forage production by monitoring the soil pH, fertility, and potential irrigation management.

Biological Control

Involves the use of biotic agents (plants, herbivores, insects, nematodes) to suppress weeds. Rarely provides complete weed control, but they usually suppress the weed population to a manageable level.

Mechanical Control

Mowing is one of the most often used weed control methods in pastures. It is generally more effective if properly timed before weed produces a seed.

Chemical Control

Includes using herbicides to control your weed population. Proper herbicide choice and application rate are extremely important.

3. Prevention

Transportation

- Most weeds are spread by seed
- Seeds can be transported by hay, harvested grass seed, sod, cattle, birds, & mowing equipment
- Try to buy hay that is not contaminated with weed seeds
- Using certified forage seed reduces weed seed contamination



Rotational Grazing

- This method is needed when stocking rates are high or forage being grazed requires careful management for long-term survival.
- Alternating periods of livestock grazing and rest in two or more pastures.
- Helps prevent overgrazing and bare spots in pastures

Toxic Weeds



American Black Nightshade:

- Very toxic to Livestock
- Control: Systemic Herbicides (glyphosate 2-4D)
- Grows year-round

Coffee Senna:

- Very toxic to Livestock
- Control: Systemic Herbicides (GrazonNext HL or 2-4D)
- Closely related to Sicklepod



Common Pokeweed:

- Toxic to Livestock
- Control: Systemic Herbicides (Dicamba or 2-4D)
- Red trunk-like stem and black fruit

Forage Quality

Why Test Forage?

It provides useful information about the nutritive value of forage. You can use this information to adjust the amount of nutritional supplements offered to your livestock consuming the forage.



Where to send forage samples & what is provided?

You can take your sample to your local Extension office and they will send it to the Forages Lab. The UF/IFAS Forage Extension Laboratory is located at the Range Cattle Research and Education Center in Ona, FL. The results include crude protein (CP) and total digestible nutrients (TDN).

How do I collect a sample?

Properly collecting a sample is very important. You will need a sampling device or tool for collecting your hay sample. The sampler is driven into the end of the rectangular bale or the rounded side of the round bale. Collect 12 core samples and combine the 12 core samples into 1 sample for the lab to test.

Have more questions?

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