

Public Abstract

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Graduation Term: Summer

Graduation Year: 2006

Title: Impact of grazing stockpiled tall fescue on lactating beef cows

Two winter-feeding experiments are described in which lactating, fall-calving beef cow-calf pairs grazed stockpiled tall fescue at three endophyte infection levels and at four forage allowances. A hay feeding treatment was also included as a standard for comparison. Experiments began in December of 2004 and 2005. We conclude that as forage allowance decrease and endophyte infection level increase, body condition, weight, and daily gain decrease. However, a fall-calving cow's weight and condition loss can be easily regained the following spring. In addition, calf performance was unaffected by endophyte infection level of stockpiled tall fescue and gain per hectare was greatest at the lowest forage allowance. Renovation of endophyte-infected tall fescue pastures for fall-calving operations would not be needed in most cases when stockpiled. In addition, when comparing the use of stockpiled to hay, cow-calf performance was comparable, concluding stockpiled tall fescue is a suitable substitute that can decrease winter feed costs.