Stockpiled Fescue Protocol
300 Day Grazing – Emphasis Program

Objective:
Demonstrate the benefits associated with increasing the number grazing days by utilizing stockpiled Fescue.

Methods & Procedures:
- Soil test by August 1
- Pasture inventory by August 1
- Clean off summer growth by September 1
- Apply 50–60 lbs. N in early September
- Defe grazing until mid-December
- Measure forage quality and yield of stockpiled Fescue
  - Take yield estimates at turn in
  - Measure forage quality at turn in and every four weeks until grazing is completed
- Measure forage quality and weight of hay
- Record the number of acres, stocking rate, grazing method and turn in and turn out date.
- BCS or Weigh livestock at beginning and ending of grazing period
- Record rainfall events and amounts or utilize local weather station data

Data Analysis:
1. Determine fertilizer cost of stockpiling Fescue.
2. Determine cost of hay.
3. Determine cost of supplemental feed.
4. Determine number of grazing days.
4. Determine economic cost difference between grazing stockpiled Fescue vs. feeding hay plus supplement (if needed).

Outcomes:
1. Total cost comparison as a result of grazing stockpiled Fescue
2. Number of days grazing stockpiled Fescue
3. Number of Animal Units grazing stockpiled Fescue

Outcomes:
1. Number of producers reached through field days, news letters and presentations.
2. Number of producers adopting the practice
# Stockpiled Fescue

Agent Name: ________________________
Producer Name: ________________________

**Field**
Acres  ________________________
Soil Test (By August 1)  ________________________
Forage Inventory (By August 1)  

**Fertilizer**
Type  ________________________
Date Applied  ________________________
Rate per acre  ________________________
Cost Per Ton  ________________________
Total Cost  ________________________

**Grazing Period**
Beginning Date  ________________________
Ending Date  ________________________

**Grazing Method**
Strip – How often were cattle moved  ________________________
Continuous  ________________________

**Yield Estimate** *(At turn in)*  

**Forage Quality** *(Routine Analysis)*
December  ________________________
January  ________________________
February  ________________________
March  ________________________

**Rainfall**  
Record Daily Amounts  ________________________
Sept. – Dec. *(calendar included)*  

**Hay Fed** *(During Grazing Period (if any) or would have been fed)*
Hay Analysis *(Routine)*  
Hay Type  ________________________
Hay Age  ________________________
Hay Storage *(Inside or Outside)*  
Bale Value  ________________________
Bale Wt. *(try to get actual weight)*  
Number of bales fed & date  ________________________

*Forage inventory sheet included*

*Yield estimate worksheet included*
Supplemental Feed
Type ________________________
Cost per ton ________________________
Pounds fed per day ________________________
Number of days fed ________________________

Livestock
Type ________________________
Number ________________________
Estimated average weight ________________________
Beginning Wt or BCS ________________________
Ending Wt or BCS ________________________

Livestock Weighing or BCS Guideline

Weighing: Calves or small ruminants
- Make sure you have a scale that is in working condition
- Try to do the beginning and ending weights at the same time of day
- Record weights and keep in project folder

BCS: Mature cows, bred heifers or horses
- Have the same person do the beginning and ending BCS
- Try to do a representative cross section of the herd
- Score a minimum of 5 head or 25% of the herd if over 20 head
- Score the same individual animals for beginning and the ending BCS
- Record BCS and keep in project folder
Forage Yield Estimate Worksheet

Date: ________________________
County: ________________________
Agent: ________________________

Yield Estimate: *(At turn in)*
(Cut 6-17” squares to 1 ½”)
(Dry and weigh forage in grams)

Weigh forage when completely dry.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Ht – Inches</th>
<th>Density – <em>(Thin, Medium or Thick)</em></th>
<th>Wt. Grams</th>
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<tr>
<td>#1</td>
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<td>Avg</td>
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Forage Inventory Sheet

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cool-Season</td>
<td>Legumes</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Grasses</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Other Cool Season</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grasses</td>
<td>Other Legumes</td>
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<td>Warm-Season</td>
<td>Weeds/Other</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Perennial Broadleaf</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Annual Broadleaf</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>Sedge/Rush</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Brush</td>
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To conduct a pasture inventory, walk a zip-zag pattern across a pasture and record what is found at the end of your toe on every 5th step. Record at least 50 tally marks—preferably 100 tally marks for each field.