

Georgia Forages Conference

Balancing calf performance while maximizing profit per acre




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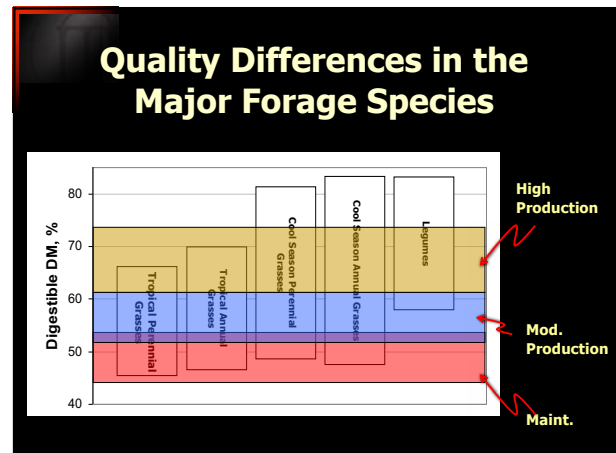
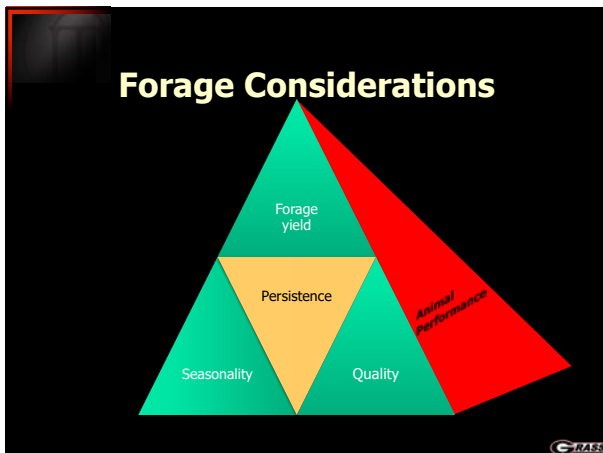
Dennis Hancock, PhD.
Professor and Extension Forage Specialist
UGA – Dept. of Crop and Soil Sciences

Georgia's Grass: A Diverse Forage Base



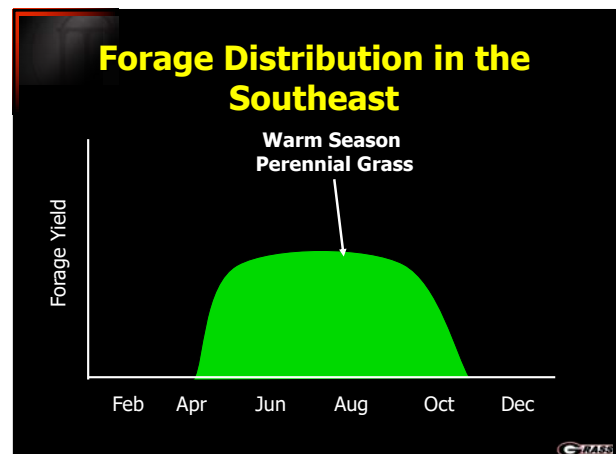
- 1) Tall fescue (pasture)
- 2) Bermudagrass (hay)
- 3) Some annuals (pasture, hay)
- 4) Some legumes and forbs.

- 1) Bermudagrass (hay, pasture)
- 2) Bahiagrass (pasture)
- 3) More annuals (hay, pasture)
- 4) Few legumes and forbs.



Forage Yield of Selected Forages in Georgia

Forage Crop	Typical Yield (lbs DM/acre)
Tall fescue	7,000-10,000
Alfalfa	10,000-14,000
Ann. ryegrass	8,000-14,000
Small grains	5,000-8,000
Bermudagrass, Common	7,000-10,000
Bermudagrass, Coastal	12,000-15,000
Bermudagrass, Tifton 85	14,000-22,000
Bahiagrass	10,000-16,000
Sorghum x Sudangrass	9,000-20,000
Pearl Millet	8,000-13,000

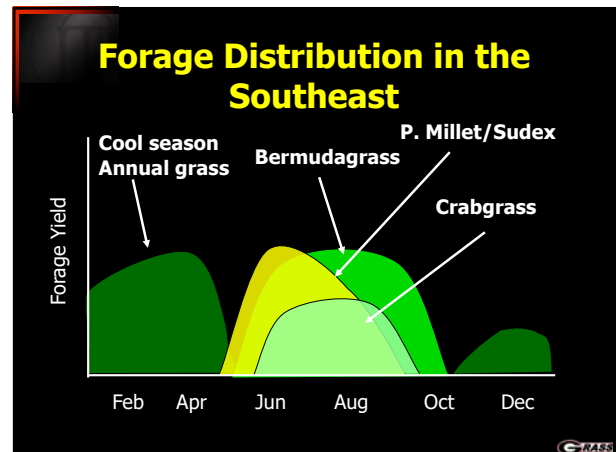
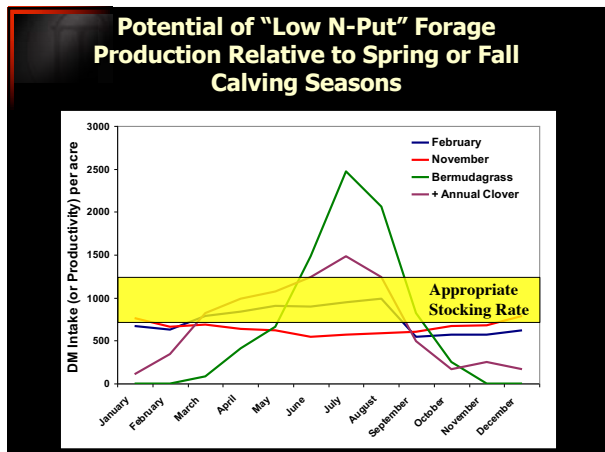
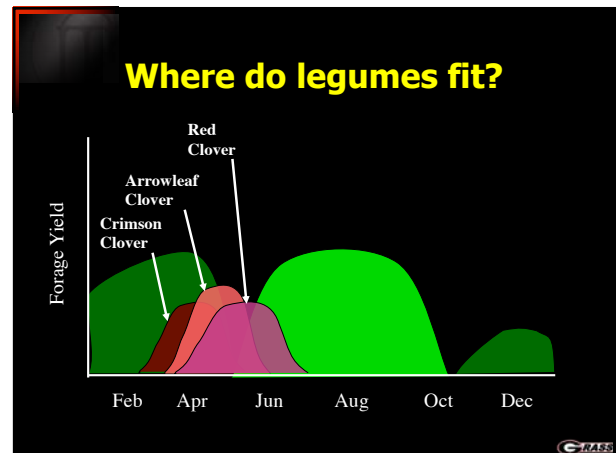
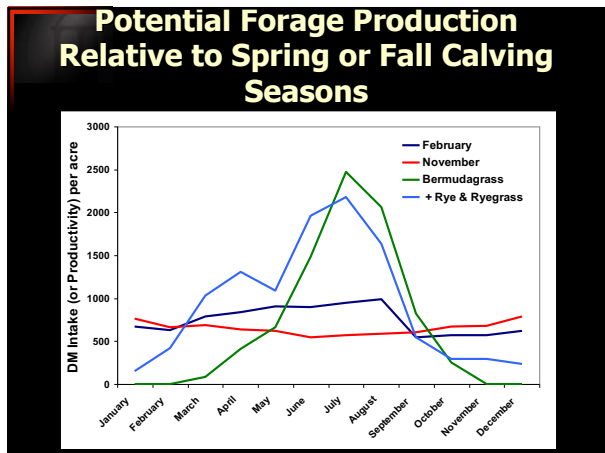
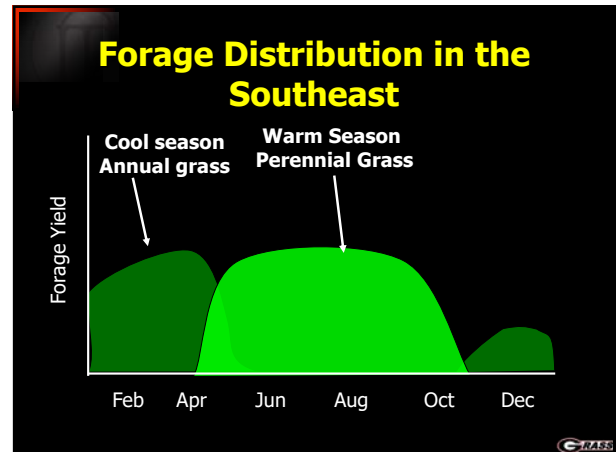
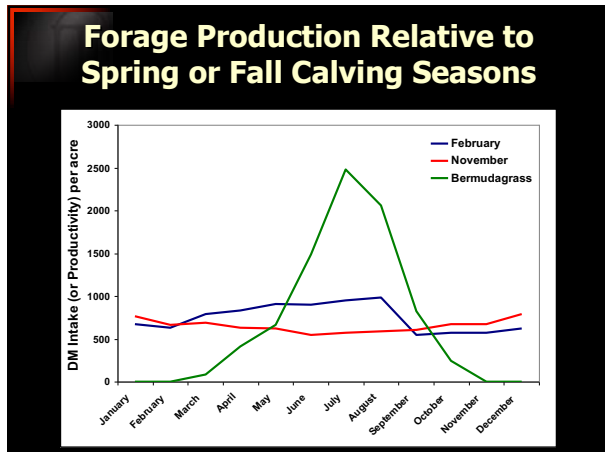


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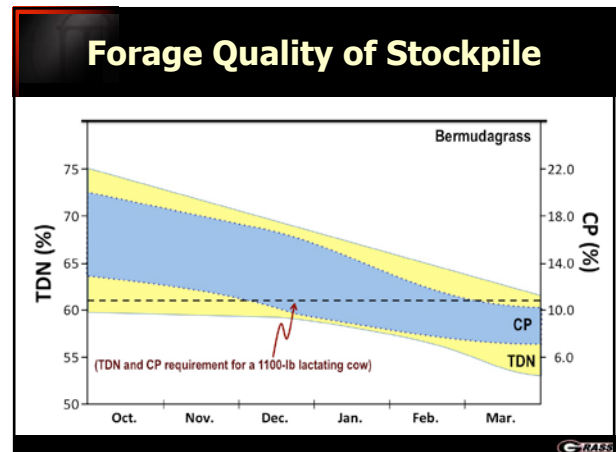
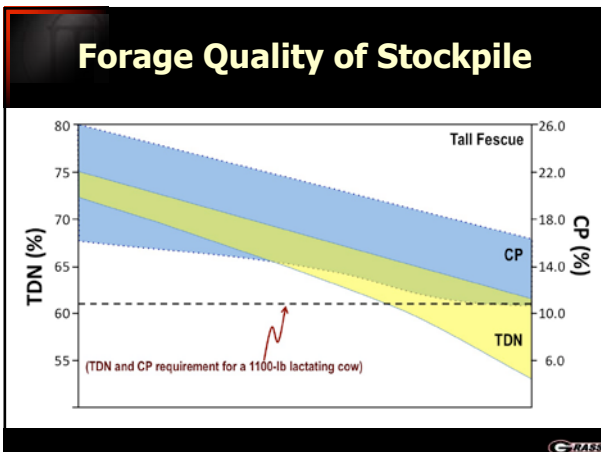
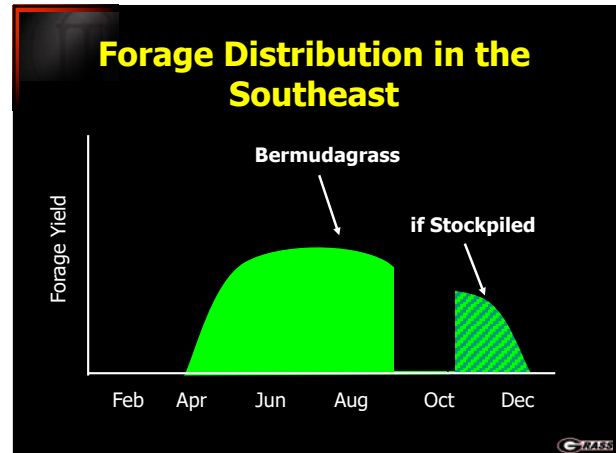
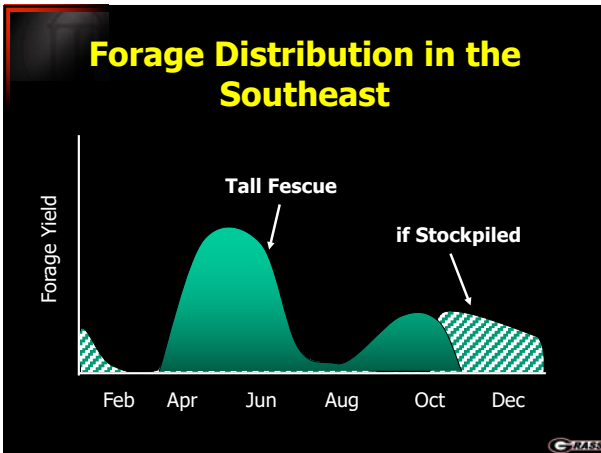
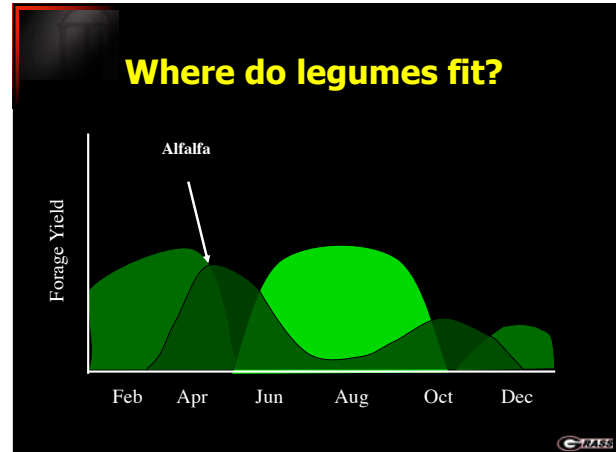
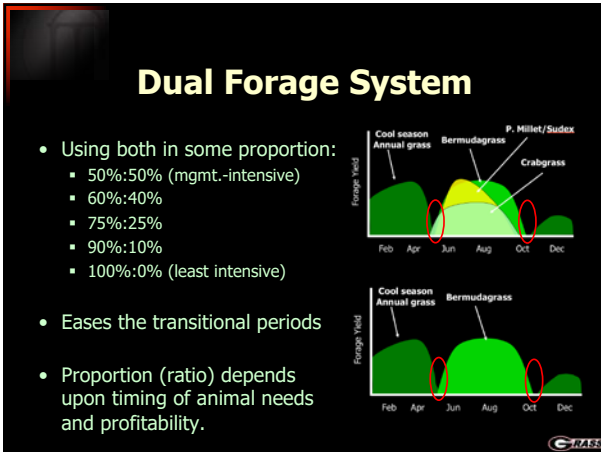
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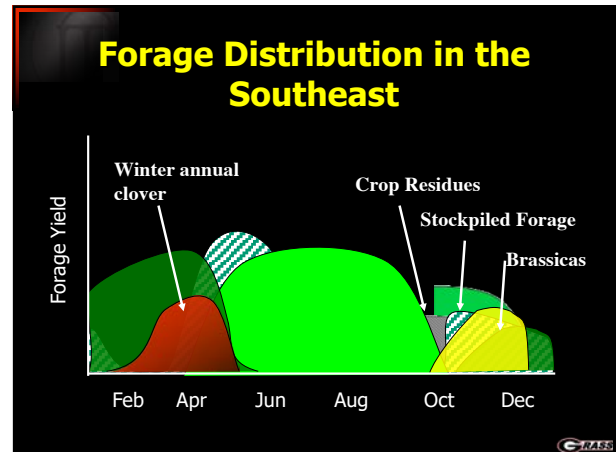
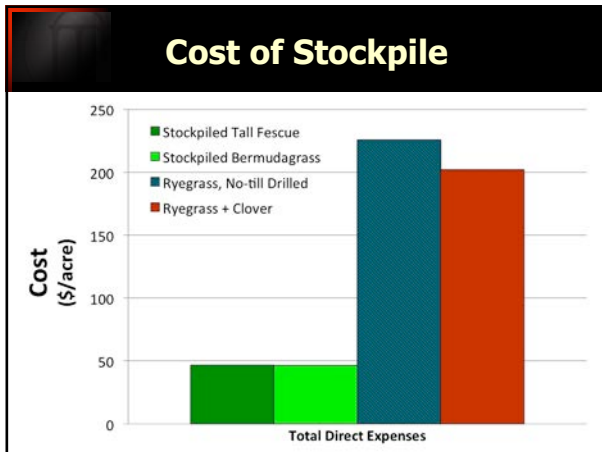


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1 Animal Unit = 1000 lbs b.w.

Stocking Rate vs. Density

Stocking Rate

- Animal units per acre over all acres and a period of time
 - (e.g., months, a season, a year)

338 AU	675 acres
1 AU	2 acres

Stocking Rate vs. Density

Stocking Density

- Animals per acre at any one point in time
 - (e.g., within a given paddock)

338 AU	22.5 acres
15 AU	1 acre

Stocking Rate Rules of Thumb

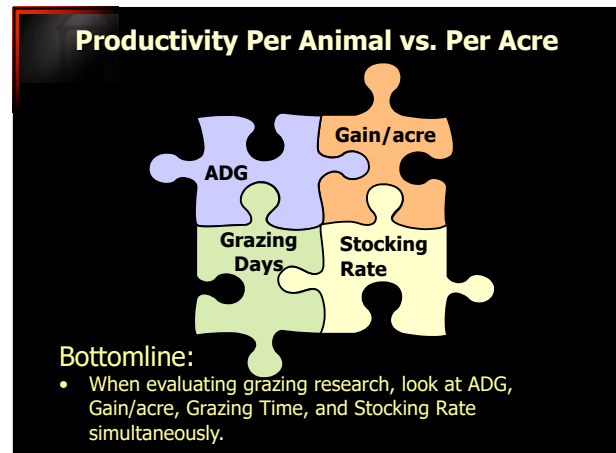
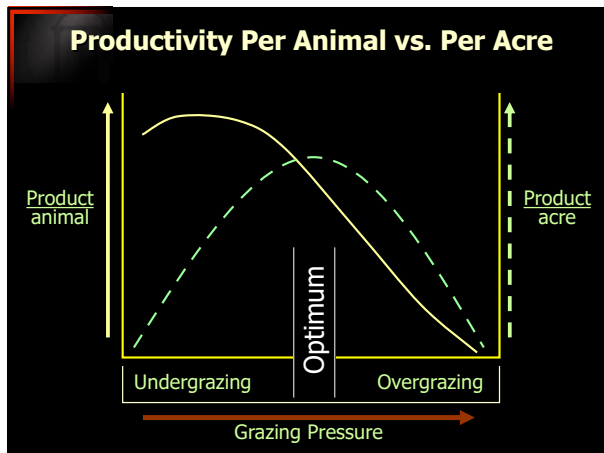
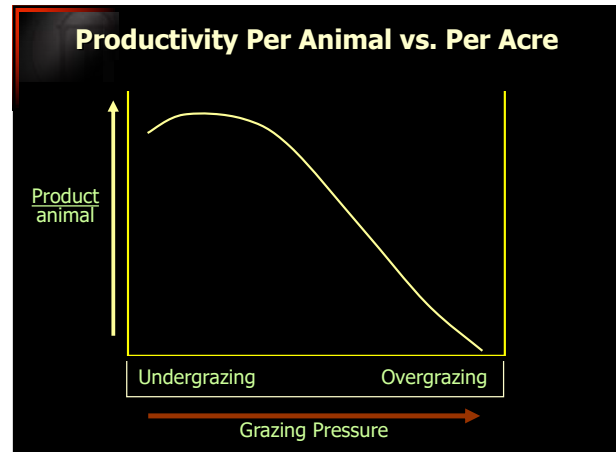
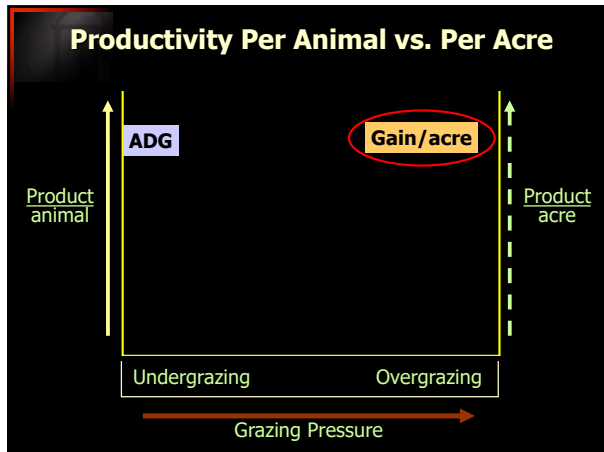
1 Animal Unit per 1.25 – 2.5 ACRES:

- 1-1000 lb beef cow
- or
- 2-500 lb stocker calves
- or
- 1-1000 lb horse
- or
- 5-200 lb ewes
- or
- 6-167 lb does

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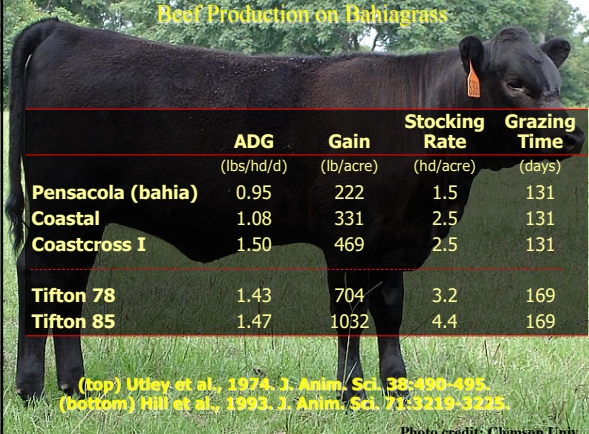
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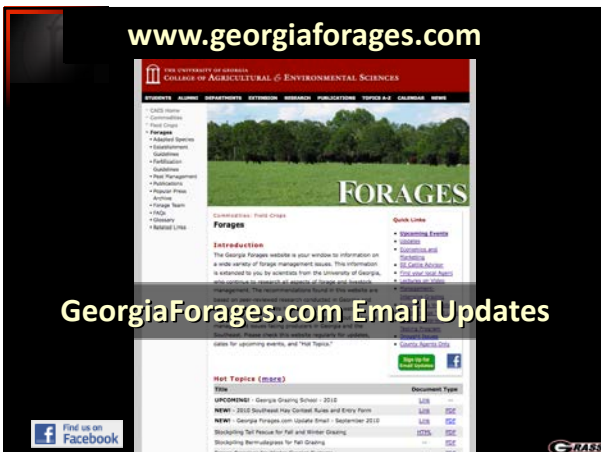
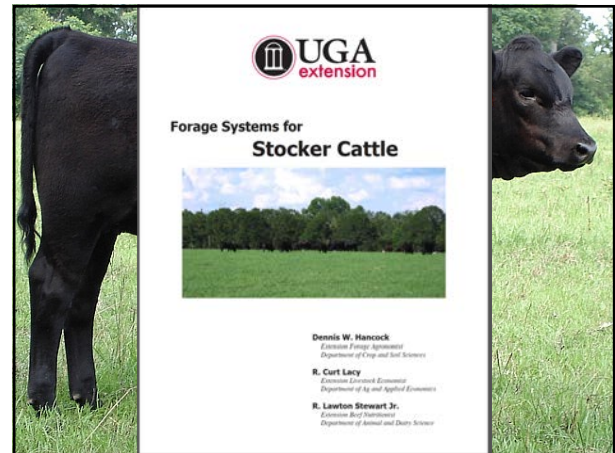
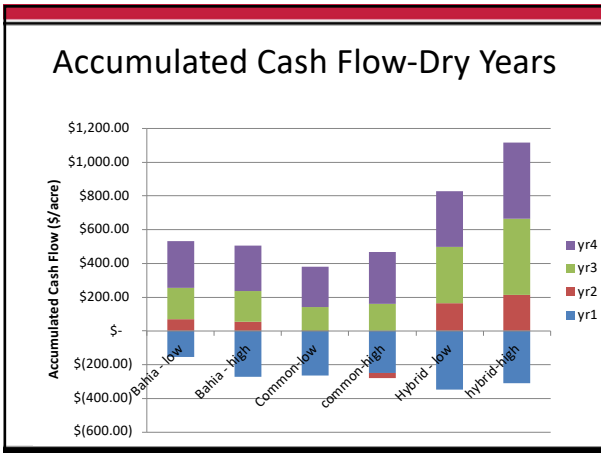
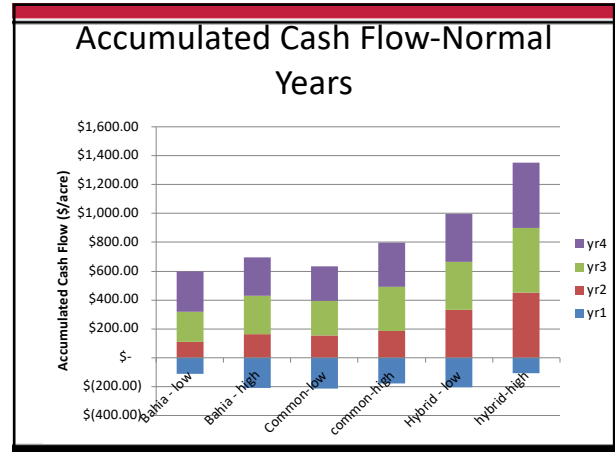
Beef Production on Bahiagrass



	ADG (lbs/hd/d)	Gain (lb/acre)	Stocking Rate (hd/acre)	Grazing Time (days)
Pensacola (bahia)	0.95	222	1.5	131
Coastal	1.08	331	2.5	131
Coastcross 1	1.50	469	2.5	131
Tifton 78	1.43	704	3.2	169
Tifton 85	1.47	1032	4.4	169

(top) Utley et al., 1974. J. Anim. Sci. 38:490-495.
(bottom) Hill et al., 1993. J. Anim. Sci. 71:3219-3225.

Photo credit: Clemson Univ.



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