

Georgia Forages Conference

Interseeding alfalfa into bermudagrass to reduce N costs, increase yields, and decrease supplementation needs

Using Alfalfa Interseeded Into Bermudagrass to Decrease Nitrogen Cost, Increase Yield, and Decrease Supplementation

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Why Alfalfa-Bermudagrass?

1. Grow your own Nitrogen!
2. Increase yield by extending the growing season
3. Increase forage quality
4. Reduce supplementation
5. If all else fails, you still have bermudagrass!




1. Grow Your Own Nitrogen

Adding legumes adds N to the system!

Species	Annual lbs (N/acre)	N value at \$0.45/lb. of N
Alfalfa	200-300	\$90-135
Red clover	100-200	\$45-90
White clover	100-150	\$45-68
Annual clover	50-150	\$23-68



Forage Yield of Bermudagrass Fertilized w/ N or w/Alfalfa Interseeded – SC Coastal Plain

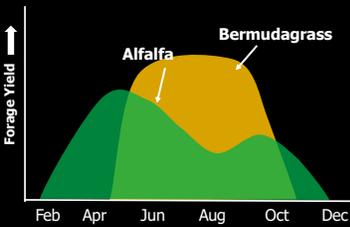


(lbs N/acre) Grass Only	(inches) Alfalfa Row Spacing	Forage Yield (tons DM/acre)
0		2.7
100		3.4
200		4.4
400		5.2
	7.5	4.9
	15	4.9
	24	4.3

Stringer et al., 1994: avg. of 2 yrs, Blackville, SC (rainfed); Slide Courtesy of Dr. Dennis Hancock

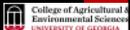


2. Increase Forage Yield and Extend the Growing Season




Current Research

To compare the forage **quality and yield** of bermudagrass with and without alfalfa interseeded when harvested as baleage

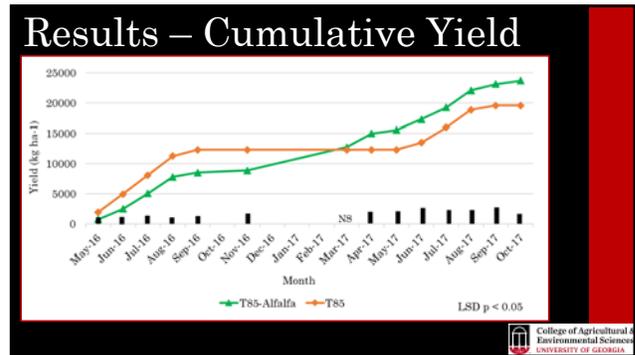
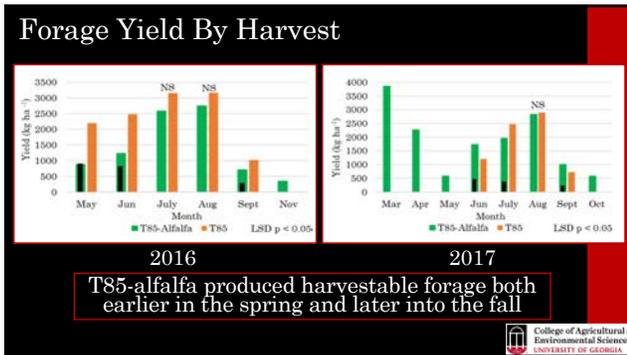


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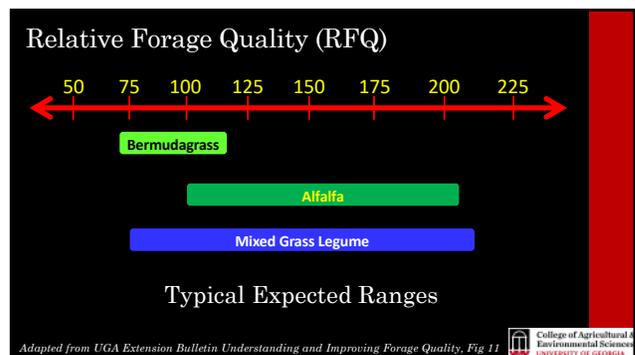
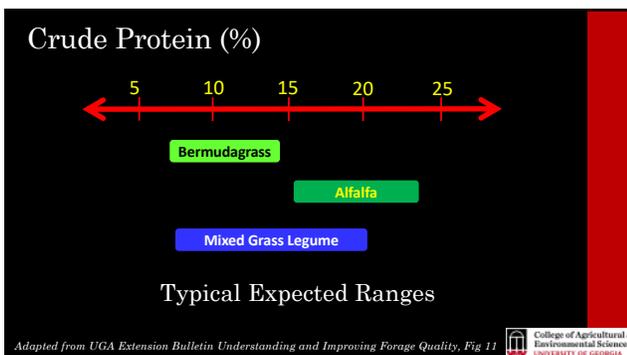
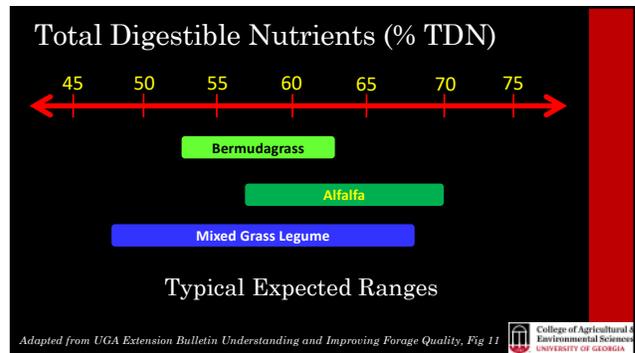
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3. Improve Forage Quality

- Bermudagrass is high yielding with moderate quality
- Adding alfalfa to bermudagrass increases quality!
 - RFQ by 25-40 points
 - CP to 14-18% +
 - TDN to 60-64% +

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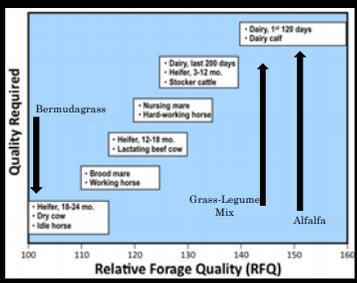
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Results – 2016 Forage Quality

- Crude protein was greater in T85-alfalfa in 5 of 6 harvests (13.3% vs 10.2%)
- IVDMD and TDN were greater in every harvest
 - TDN: 54.5% vs. 51.8%
 - IVDMD: 74.1% vs. 71.1%



4. Reduce Supplementation




5. If all else fails, you still have bermudagrass!




Summary

Interseeding alfalfa into bermudagrass can add another tool in the toolbox

- Reduce Supplementation
- Improve forage quality
- Extend the growing season
- Growing your own nitrogen!



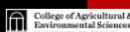
Alfalfa In the South Field Day

May 1: Calhoun Co.
May 8: Bacon Co.
May 9: Tilton, GA
May 10: Irwin Co.

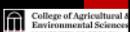
Registration \$15. Lunch and reference materials provided.
RSVP: 706-310-3464




More Info and registration @ www.georgiaforages.com



Questions?

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