

**20 YEARS OF SOUTHERN FORAGES**  
July 2010 Georgia Cattleman  
Dennis Hancock, Forage Extension Specialist  
The University of Georgia

On a personal note, the highlight of the Legume Management Field Day for me was the opportunity to host a field day that featured several of my mentors and friends. It is quite rare that we have an opportunity to have that kind of expertise and experience at a field day. For me, it was especially inspiring to have all three of the co-authors of the influential book, “Southern Forages,” at that field day.

Since its publication in 1991, “Southern Forages” has become one of the most popular forage management texts in the US and, increasingly, around the world. Nearly 50,000 copies have sold to date, which is an astounding number for a textbook in the agricultural sciences. Plus, it has been published in three non-English languages (with a Spanish edition coming soon). The secret to this textbook’s success is that it uses simple language. Most importantly, it provides practical information in a simple and easy to understand way. In fact, the most useful pages are the tables and graphs in the Appendix that provide quick answers to complex problems.

Though we did not originally set out with this in mind when planning the event, we quickly recognized that we would have all three authors at our field day on the eve of celebrating 20 years of success with this important textbook/handbook. Since it is rare that all three authors are able to be at Extension events like our field day, we knew we needed to take advantage of this occasion to thank them for their efforts and impact. We integrated into the event an opportunity for the authors to provide us with some of the history of their book and publicly thanked them for the contributions they have made to forage-based livestock systems in the Southeast.

“Southern Forages” has become an important resource for hay and pasture producers in the South. You would find it to be a valuable addition to your bookshelf or truck’s dashboard, and I strongly recommend it to you. Copies of the 4<sup>th</sup> Edition of “Southern Forages” are available through several internet-based bookstores or you can order straight from the publisher (International Plant Nutrition Institute) by visiting their website ([www.ipni.net](http://www.ipni.net)).



**(L to R) Drs. Don Ball, Carl Hoveland, and Garry Lacefield are congratulated by Dr. Dennis Hancock on 20 years of success with their book, "Southern Forages."**