



Fertilizing Bahiagrass

Four fertilization options are presented below for established bahiagrass pastures. Choose the option which most closely fits your fertilizer budget, management objectives, and land capability. If you will be grazing only your bahiagrass, you should carefully consider the potential for economical return on your investment in fertilizer before using the Medium-Nitrogen or High-Nitrogen options described below. The added forage produced for grazing animals may not be worth the added cost.

Grazed Bahiagrass

Low-Nitrogen Option: (Do not use this option if you cut hay since nutrient removal by hay is much greater than by grazing animals.)

Apply 50–60 lb N/acre in the early spring. Do not apply K, r

Apply 25 lb P₂O₅/acre if your soil tests Very Low or Low in P and tissue P concentration is below 0.15%.

Medium-Nitrogen Option:

Apply 100 lb N/acre in the early spring.

Apply 25 lb P₂O₅/acre if your soil tests Very Low or Low in P and tissue P concentration is below 0.15%.

Apply 50 lb K₂O/acre if your soil tests Very Low or Low in K.

High-Nitrogen Option:

Apply 160 lb N/acre in two applications of 80 lb N/acre in early spring and early summer.

Apply 40 lb P₂O₅/acre if your soil tests Very Low or Low in P and tissue P concentration is below 0.15%.

Apply 80 lb K₂O/acre if your soil tests Very Low or Low in K and 40 lb K₂O/acre if it tests Medium.

Bahiagrass Cut Sometimes for Hay (For a single cut per year from pastures)

If you used the Low-N option

Apply 80 lb N/acre no later than six weeks end of season. Apply 50 lb K₂O/A if your soil tests Very Low or Low in K.

Apply 25 lb P₂O₅/acre if your soil tests Very Low or Low in P and tissue P concentration is below 0.15%.

If you used the Medium-N option

apply an additional 80 lb N no later than six weeks before the growing season ends.

Apply 50 lb K₂O/acre if your soil tests Very Low or Low in K.

Apply 25 lb P₂O₅/acre if your soil tests Very Low or Low in P and tissue P concentration is below 0.15%.

If you used the High-N option

Apply 0 lb N/acre you do not need any additional N fertilization to make one cut of hay.

Apply 80 lb K₂O/acre if your soil tests Very Low or Low in K and 40 lb K₂O/acre if it tests Medium.

Apply 40 lb P₂O₅/acre if your soil tests Very Low or Low in P and tissue P concentration is below 0.15%.

Bahiagrass Grown Only for Hay (For multiple cuts of hay)

Apply 80 lb N/acre in early spring.

Also in spring, apply 80 lb K₂O/acre if your soil tests Very Low or Low in K, and 40 lb K₂O/acre if it tests Medium.

Apply 40 lb P₂O₅/acre if your soil tests Very Low or Low in P and tissue P concentration is below 0.15%.

Apply an additional 80 lb N and 40 lb K₂O/acre after each cutting, except the last in the fall. Include 20 lb of P₂O₅/acre after each cutting if the soil tested Very Low or Low in P.

Bahiagrass for Seed Production

For Pasture that is grazed and then cut for seed:

Apply 60–80 lb N/acre in February or March. Graze until May, June, or July, depending on variety. Remove cattle before seed heads start to emerge, and apply an additional 60–80 lb N/acre.

At the same time, apply 80 lb K₂O/acre if your soil tests Very Low or Low in K, and 40 lb K₂O/acre if it tests Medium.

Apply 40 lb P₂O₅/acre if your soil tests Very Low or Low in P and tissue P concentration is below 0.15%.

For pasture that is not grazed:

Mowing from February to April may be needed to remove excessive top growth.

Apply 60–80 lb N/A before seed heads first appear.

Apply 25 lb P₂O₅/acre if your soil tests Very Low or Low in P and tissue P concentration is below 0.15%.

Apply 50 lb K₂O/acre if your soil tests Very Low or Low in K and none if it tests Medium or High.

Fertilize Pensacola in March/April and Argentine and Paraguay in May/June.

Ken Johnson

Director and Livestock Agent

DeSoto County Extension

Calendar of Events

March 2013

12-14	Legislative Quarterly Meeting Tallahassee, FL
14	2013 NFREC Beef/Forage Day Marianna, FL

Beef Management Checklist

February

- Top dress winter forages, if needed.
- Check and fill mineral feeders.
- Put bulls out with breeding herd.
- Work calves (identify, implant with growth stimulant, vaccinate, etc.).
- Make sure lactating cows are receiving an adequate level of energy.
- Watch calves for signs of respiratory diseases.
- Cull cows that failed to calve while prices are seasonally up.
- Check for lice and treat if needed.

Cow/Calf Cost Share Program

Available for all Counties within the Peace River

Water Shed to help implement BMP's

75% Reimbursement up to a Maximum of \$5,000

Contact:

Items Eligible for Cost Share

Solar Water pump SYS 50 (up to 3.2 GPM)
Solar Water pump Jet Pump 85 watt (up to 24 GPM)
Closed Pipeline Water Delivery
Galvanized or Concrete Watering Trough
Stable Base for Watering Trough (Shell, asphalt millings or Concrete Pad)
Culverts with Riser Board Structures
Shell Aggregates for Mineral Boxes, Feed Bunks, and Molasses Tanks
Rock Aggregates for Creek Crossing
Asphalt Millings for Mineral Box, Feed Bunks and Molasses tanks
Cross Fencing for Rotational Grazing
Board Fencing for Pump Protection
Wetland Exclusion Fencing/Temporary Fencing for Cow/Calf
Other Approved Water Conservation Projects

Matt Warren

Environmental Specialist

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Service

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Bahiagrass Pasture Fertilization

	High			Medium			Low		
	N lbs/A	P ₂ O ₅ lbs/A	K ₂ O lbs/A	N lbs/A	P ₂ O ₅ lbs/A	K ₂ O lbs/A	N lbs/A	P ₂ O ₅ lbs/A	K ₂ O lbs/A
Grazed	80ES/80ESU	40 VL/L	80 VL/L 40M	100 ES	25 VL/L	50 VL/L	50 ES	25 VL/L	0
1 Cut Hay	0	40 VL/L	80 VL/L 40M	80 SU	25 VL/L	50 VL/L	80SU	25 VL/L	50VL/L
	N lbs/A	P ₂ O ₅ lbs/A	K ₂ O lbs/A	Additional requirements					
Multiple Cut Hay	80 ES+80 EC	40 VL/L	80 VL/L 40M	Additional 80 lb N, 40lbs K ₂ O, 20lbs P ₂ O ₅ after each cutting if tests VL/L					
Grazed + Seed	60-80 FM	40 VL/L	80 VL/L 40M	Graze until May/June, remove cattle and add 60-80 lbsN/acre					
Seed	60-80 AM	25 VL/L	0	Pensacola Mar/Apr, Argentine/Paraguay May/June					

VL/L= Very Low or Low Soil test levels

M= Medium Soil test levels

ES=Early Spring application

SU=Additional Summer application

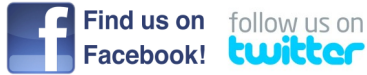
EC=Application after every cutting

FM = February/March application

AM= April/May application

UF/IFAS DeSoto County Extension

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Meats Futures prices as of February 8th, 2013 - 08:31 CST

Contract	Month	Open	High	Low	Last	Change
Live Cattle	Feb 13	127.500	127.800	127.425	127.775	+0.225
Live Cattle	Apr 13	131.450	131.750	131.400	131.650	+0.125
Live Cattle	Jun 13	127.025	127.325	127.025	127.275	+0.250
Feeder Cattle	Mar 13	147.250	147.625	147.250	147.450	+0.250
Feeder Cattle	Apr 13	150.500	150.950	150.425	150.750	+0.175
Feeder Cattle	May 13	153.100	153.350	153.100	153.150	+0.300

2010-2013 Monthly Precipitation

	2013	2012	2011	2010
Jan	0.38	0.48	2.39	1.59
Feb		0.75	0.17	2.53
Mar		1.80	4.47	7.03
Apr		0.83	1.71	1.85
May		3.45	3.22	3.58
Jun		12.92	3.67	8.66
Jul		4.96	8.22	4.26
Aug		8.82	11.92	10.57
Sep		5.63	5.66	6.04
Oct		3.62	4.79	0.04
Nov		0.11	0.24	2.74
Dec		2.31	0.07	1.33
		45.68	46.53	50.22

A Survey for Florida Cattle Ranchers

Please consider taking a survey conducted by Caitlin Jacobs, a graduate student in the Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation at the University of Florida. The survey will be available March 1, 2013 at <https://ufl.qualtrics.com>

The purpose of this survey is to (1) evaluate the impacts Florida ranchers face from predators, including the Florida panther, (2) collect information on calf loss trends throughout Florida, and (3) evaluate ranchers' opinions regarding livestock compensation programs, incentive-based programs for providing wildlife habitat, and conservation easements.



2010-2013 Rainfall

