

2013 Georgia Grazing School:

Southern Forages: Yield, distribution, and quality

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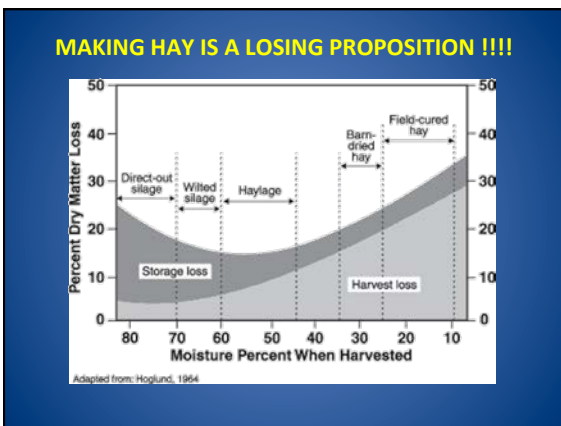
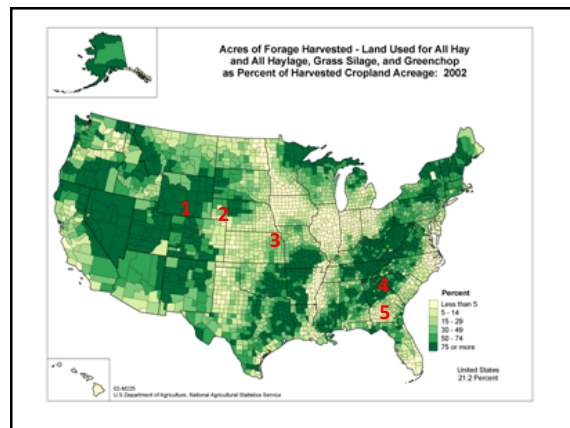
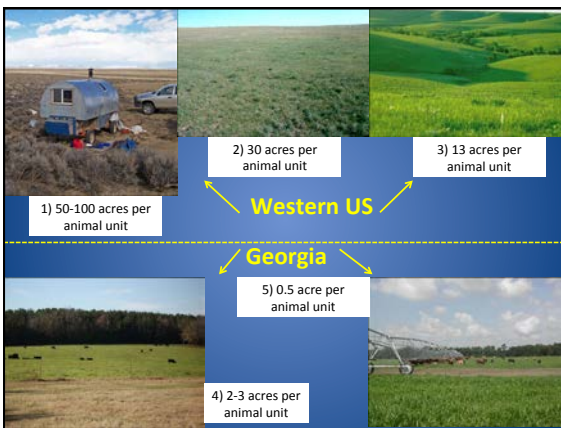
Nick Hill, Crop and Soil Sciences,
UGA, Athens



Southern Forages: Yield, distribution, and quality.

Forage systems are a strength in livestock operations.


Or are they?



Southern Forages: Yield, distribution, and quality.

What makes a good forage system?

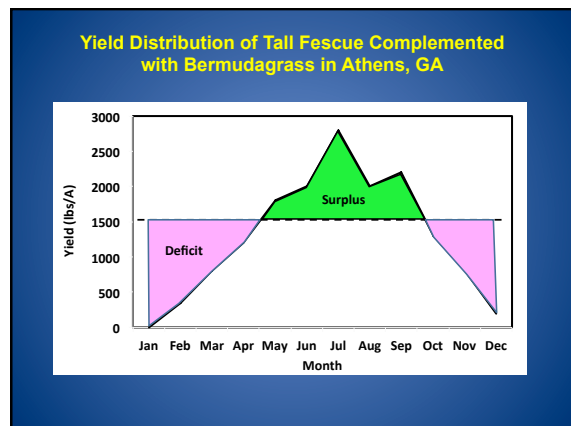
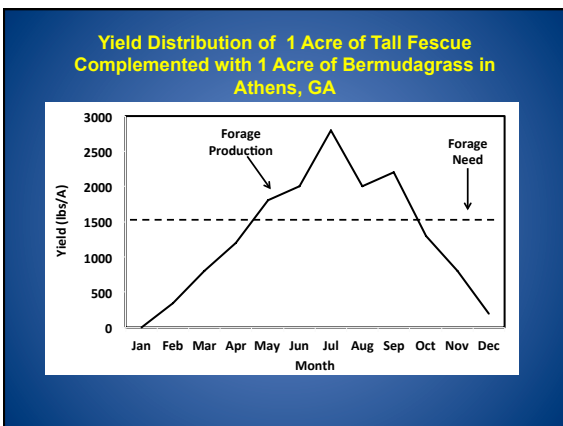
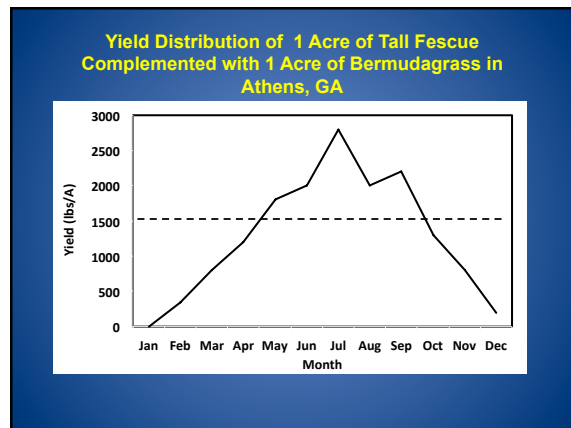
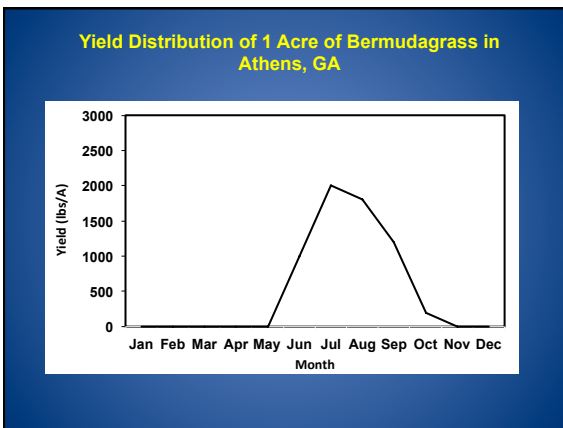
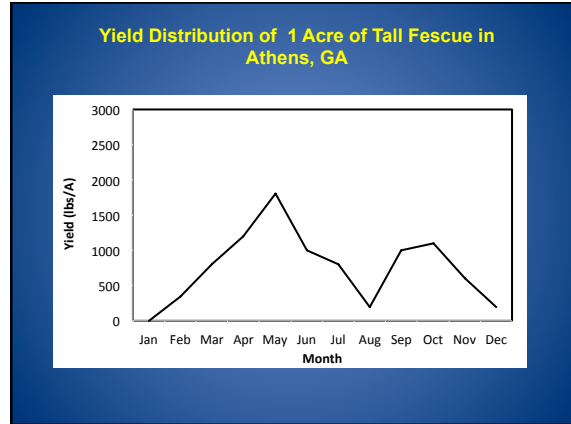
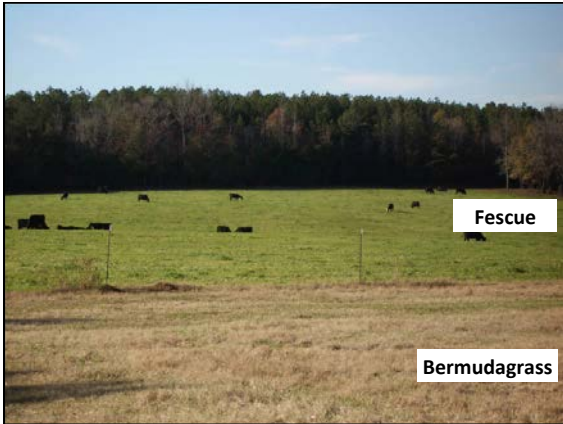
- Match herd needs with forage productivity
- Flexible for livestock enterprises
- Minimize periods of forage deficiencies
(and therefore need for stored forages)
- Efficient economically
- Environmentally sustainable



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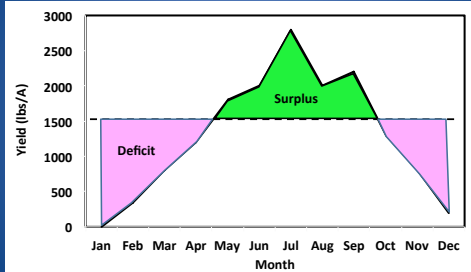


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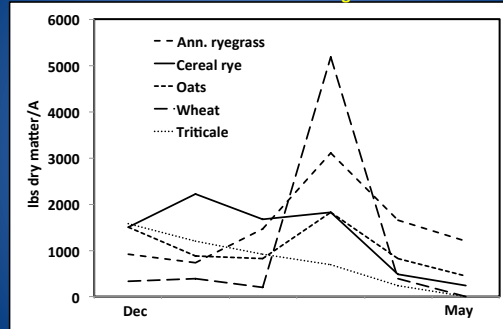
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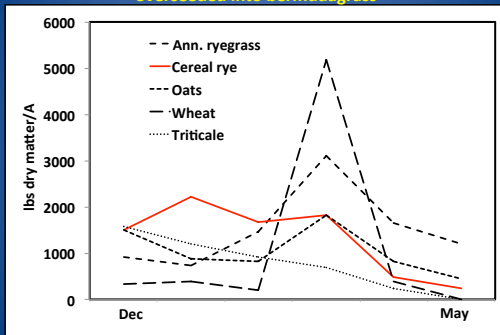
How can I minimize the surplus/deficit periods?



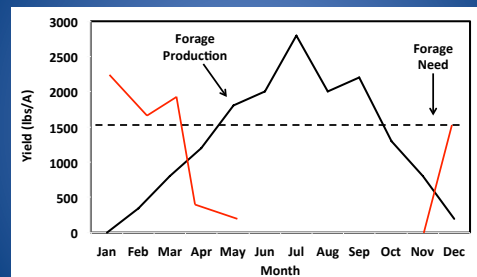
Yield distribution of winter annuals when overseeded into bermudagrass



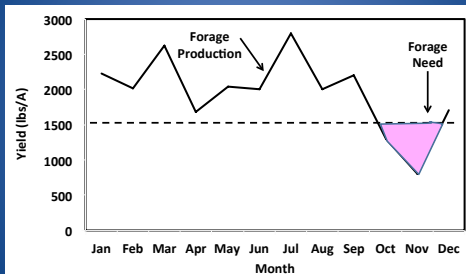
Yield distribution of winter annuals when overseeded into bermudagrass



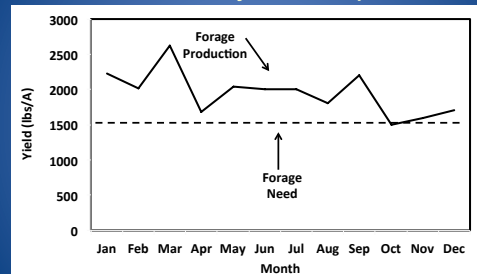
Complementary effect of overseeding bermudagrass with Cereal rye



Yield Distribution of 1 Acre of Tall Fescue with 1 Acre of Bermudagrass Overseeded with Cereal Rye



Yield Distribution of Tall Fescue/Bermudagrass Overseeded with Cereal Rye – No fescue utilization from July thru mid-September



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Adding cereal rye to the system adds forage quality to the pasture resource

Forage species	Metab. energy	Crude protein
	Kcal/lb forage	%
Bermudagrass	0.91-1.03	11.0-14.2
Tall Fescue	0.90-1.08	11.0-19.6
Cereal rye	0.93-1.19	13.6-21.2

Typical Piedmont Georgia Pastures

- Species composition:
 - KY-31 tall fescue
 - Common bermudagrass
 - Weeds
- Low pH
- Fertilizer applied at random (chicken litter)
- Years of neglect/mismanagement

Makes this grazing school an opportunity for all!