


UF IFAS
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA
Range Cattle
Research & Education Center



**Stockpiled Forage for Cow-Calf Production
in Florida**

2023 UF/IFAS Range Cattle Research Webinar


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Introduction

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- Stockpiled forage is a feasible alternative to conserve forage for the winter in South Florida




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Introduction

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- Limpograss (*Hemarthria altissima*) has greater forage production in early spring and digestibility at extended regrowth intervals when compared with other warm-season grasses



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General Recommendation

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- The general recommendation is to fertilize limpgrass pastures with 50-60 lb N/acre and defer pastures from grazing for approximately 90 d.
- Dates for deferment may vary according to the location and weather conditions in Florida

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Stockpiling Period

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Stockpiling Period	Herbage Mass	Herbage Accumulation rate
weeks	lb DM/acre	lb DM/acre/d
8	5,350	94
12	7,000	90
16	8,300	81
OPC	Linear	Linear

Wallau et al. (2013)

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Stockpiling Period

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Stockpiling Period	IVDOM	CP
weeks	%	%
8	58	3.9
12	55	2.8
16	55	2.7
OPC	Linear	Linear

Wallau et al. (2013)

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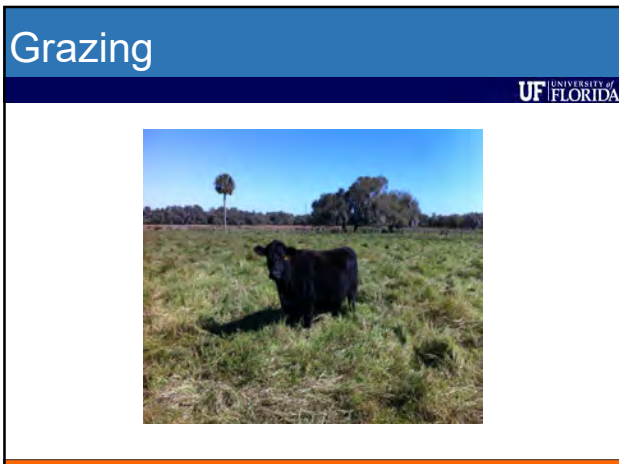
Fertilization

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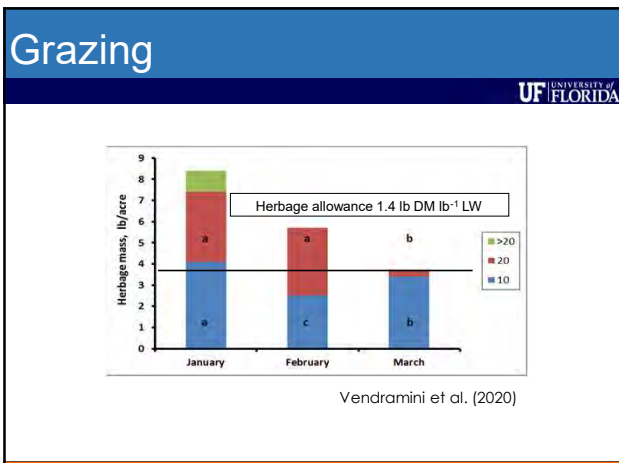
	Stockpiling period (d)				N fertilization (lb/ac)	
	60	90	120	150	50	100
Forage mass (lb/acre)	3200b	5000a	5490a	5631a	4600	5000
CP (%)	6.2ab	6.6a	5.7b	5.8b	6.0	6.0

Fernandes (2019)

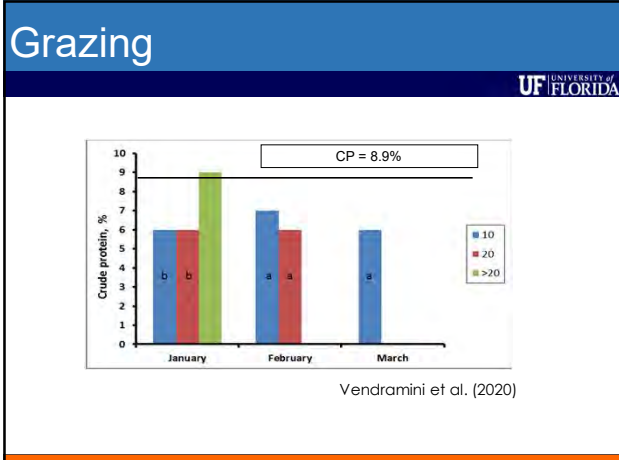
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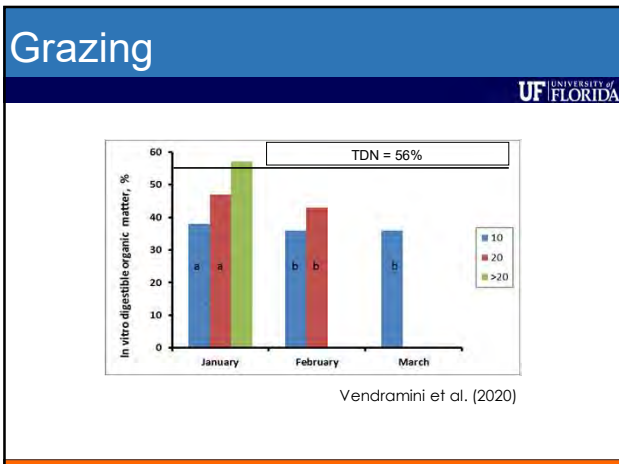
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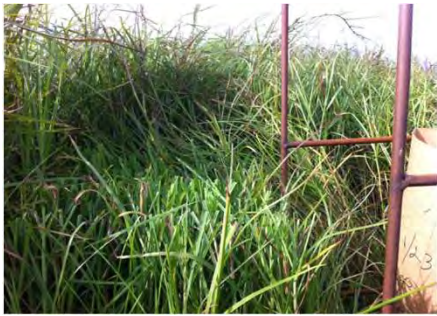
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Grazing

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Grazing

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Grazing

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Nutrient	Supplement (lb/d)		
	January	February	March
DM	No	Yes	Yes
CP	No	1.0	1.0
TDN	No	2.8	3.7

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Supplementation

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Supplementation

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Item	Treatment	
	CSM ¹	Urea
Ingredient, % DM		
CSM	40	-
Urea	-	4
Feather meal	-	10
Corn meal	-	26
Molasses	60	60
Nutrient profile, ² DM basis		
TDN, %	72.0	72.9
NEEm, ⁴ Meal/kg	1.69	1.72
NEg, ⁴ Meal/kg	1.07	1.10
CP, %	27.4	27.3
RDP, % CP	65	65
RUP, % CP	35	35
Daily intake ³		
DM, kg	3.00	3.00
TDN, kg	2.16	2.19
NEEm, kg	5.07	5.16
NEg, kg	3.21	3.30
CP, kg	0.82	0.82
RDP, kg	0.53	0.53
RUP, kg	0.28	0.28

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Supplementation

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Response variables	CSM	Urea	P-value	SE
ADG, lb				
Cow	0.25	0.00	0.34	0.09
Calf	1.8	1.8	0.74	0.04
BCS				
Initial	4.6	4.3	0.31	0.2
Final	4.9	4.7	0.12	0.2
BUN, mg/dL	13.3	13.2	0.86	0.7
Milk Production, lb/d	15.2	15.8	0.74	0.6

Aguilar et al. (2015)

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Supplementation

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Treatment	ADG	Liveweight Gain	BUN
	lb/d	lb/acre	mg/dL
Control	0.4c	154c	21.2bc
CSM 2.5	1.0b	487a	23.1b
CSM 5.0	1.4a	710b	27.3a
PTG	1.5a	414a	19.2c

Vendramini and Arthington (2010)

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Comparing Limpoglass and Bahia + hay winter grazing systems

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	Weight Gain	Calf Weight	Preg Rates
	lb	lb	%
Limpoglass	-115	547	91.6
Bahia + hay	-88	535	92.2

Arthington and Pate (2006)

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- ### Implications
- UF UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA
- Stockpiling limpoglass is a viable management practice to supply forage for mature cows during the winter in South Florida
 - The decrease in forage nutritive value during the grazing season needs to be considered to determine the supplementation program to optimize cattle performance

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Thank you!



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