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Results of On-Farm 1994-95 Hay Ammoniation

Demonstrations in Florida

W.F. Brown
University of Florida, IFAS



For questions or comments regarding this publication contact

[William F. Brown](#)

There are new developments that should continue to increase the use of ammoniated hay in Florida. In the past, availability of anhydrous ammonia has limited the widespread use of ammoniated hay in central and south Florida. Now, a company will deliver anhydrous ammonia in nurse tanks directly to the ranch, and pick them up when you are finished. Mr. Franklin Copeland owns an anhydrous ammonia company near Alachua (phone 904-462-1596), and can service north and north-central Florida from that location. He also owns several 20-ton capacity anhydrous ammonia tanker trailers located near Lakeland (phone 941-8590673, cellular 941-660-8247). From Lakeland he can service central Florida; last year he transported ammonia to ranches as far south as Arcadia. For the 1995-96 season, he will place a tanker in south Florida to service that area. With these new developments, I encourage ranchers who have not used ammoniated hay to try this technology. We also have a nurse tank at the AREC-Ona that you can borrow. In this case, anhydrous ammonia can be purchased at Port Sutton, a few miles south of SR-60 on US-41, near Tampa. I know of several suppliers that have economical prices for plastic; call me if you would like this information - 941735-1314.

Due to increased availability of anhydrous ammonia, there was a large increase in the number of ranchers that ammoniated hay during 1994-95. Because they were confident in the increased hay quality they would obtain by hay ammoniation, many ranchers, particularly those that have used ammoniated hay in the past, did not sample their hay before treatment. Examples in the table below are from ranches that obtained hay samples before and after treatment. As in the past, all untreated hays were low in crude protein (CP) and total digestible nutrients (TDN). Anhydrous ammonia increased the CP of all hays, and TDN was increased by about 10 units. Another advantage of ammoniated hay is that cattle eat it very well, with less waste. If differences in hay waste are accounted

for, ammoniation costs are reduced by 30 to 50 percent. Last winter, yearling heifers fed ammoniated Suerte hay (new grass release; see table) plus 5.0 lbs. of a molasses-feather meal slurry, gained 1.25 lbs./day. Ammoniated hay plus an energy/natural protein supplement will provide a good winter feeding program for developing heifers. I am aware of a few other ranchers who ammoniated hay during 1994-95, that you may want to talk to. They include Sid Sumner (Barlow), Veech Ranch (Arcadia), Bob Anson (Myakka City), Charles Lawton (Ft. Lonesome), Claude Smoak (Minneola), Roy Tillett (Ruskin), Deek Wood (Groveland), Eddie Schwartz (Lakeland), Archie Davis (Lee), Richard Iott (Madison), and Herman Laramore (Marianne).

		Crude protein		Total digestible nutrients	
Ranch contact, Location	Grass species	Untreated	Ammoniated	Untreated	Ammoniated
Ona AREC	Suerte	4.0	15.1	47	56
David Ward, Ona	Limpo	3.2	10.6	49	57
Dan Sumner, Ruskin	Bahia	6.7	14.3	44	55
Elmer Taylor, Arcadia	Rhodes	5.8	16.1	41	55
Charles Clark, Haines City	Bahia/ Bermuda	7.3	17.5	46	54