

## SEASONAL PASTURES FOR YEAR-ROUND GRAZING IN EAST TEXAS

Albert W. Crain, Associate Pasture Specialist  
Texas A. & M. College System

There is no combination of grasses and legumes to plant which will provide year-round grazing within the same pasture fenced area. *The best pasture mixture* is the best grass and the best legume adapted to (1) the soil, (2) the *seasonal* need and, (3) grazing management practices to be followed. Bermuda is the best known warm-season perennial grass for East Texas. It is common throughout the area and exists in excellent stands where soils are fertile and well drained. Bur clover, singletary peas, or white clover are cool-season legumes that will thrive with bermuda or dallis grass. During the season of maximum production of the cool-season legume, lespedeza, a warm-season reseeding annual, should be germinating and establishing itself. Thus, cool-season and warm-season legumes should not be used on the same pasture. It would be wise to have a bermuda-lespedeza pasture and also a bermuda--cool-season legume pasture.

Kentucky 31 fescue, a cool-season perennial pasture grass, should not be expected to thrive with bermuda or dallis or other warm-season perennial pasture grasses. One is dormant while the other is actively growing. The cool-season perennial will die for lack of moisture and nutrients during the warm-season of the year, if planted with bermuda or other warm-season perennial grass. The fescue or other cool-season perennial with a cool-season legume must be in a pasture that can be protected during the hot summer months and maintained for heavy use during the cool-season of the year.

Supplemental pastures are needed for both summer and winter production. Oats, rye, crimson clover, vetch, singletary peas for winter pasture and sudan and Chinese red cowpeas for summer will round out a good pasture program.

Anytime surplus grazing forage or pasturage exists on a given pasture, it should be cut for hay or silage. It should be done for good pasture management. Besides, no pasture program is fool-proof, a reserve of hay and silage is needed for drouths and cold weather. Also, hay should be available to cattle anytime they graze good succulent pasture.

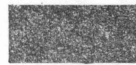
One or more winter supplemental pastures with one or more summer supplemental pastures with a good 'permanent' or perennial warm-season pasture and a perennial cool-season perennial pasture is sufficient for a sound program when hay or silage or both are provided.

A well planned fertilizing and renovating program is an essential part of a pasture program. Mowing equipment for weed control and for keeping pasture plants in a succulent condition is also a necessary part of a pasture program.

All combinations of good pasture mixture or crops are not illustrated, but sufficient examples are shown to illustrate the need for *seasonal pastures*.

PASTURES ARE A CASH CROP - - TREAT THEM AS SUCH

# SEASONAL PASTURES FOR YEAR-ROUND GRAZING IN EAST TEXAS



DALLIS

WHITE CLOVER

BERMUDA

SINGLETARY

BERMUDA

LESPEDEZA

KY31 FESCUE

WHITE CLOVER

OATS

CRIMSON

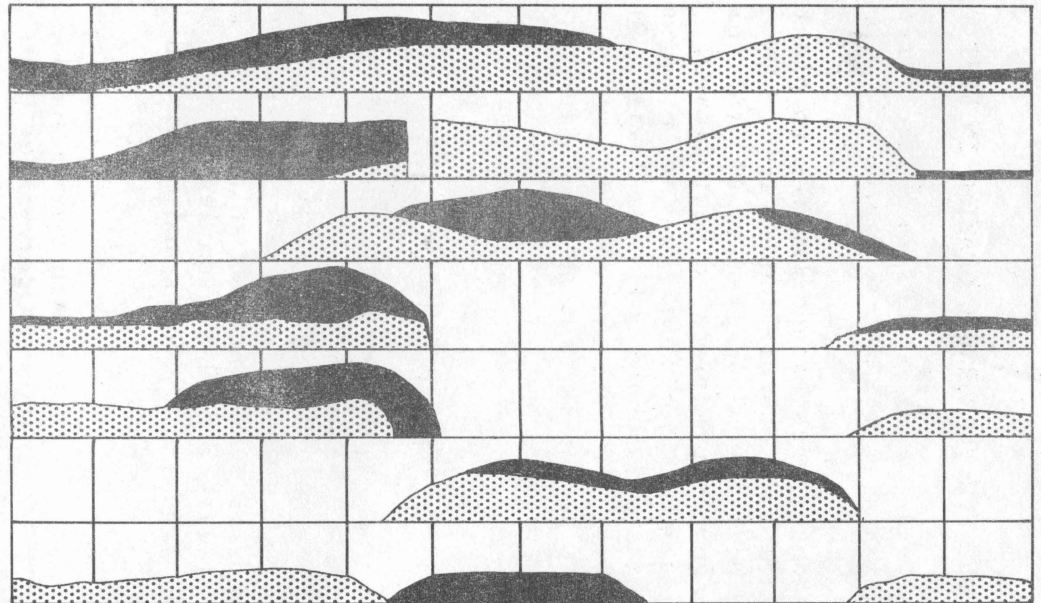
SUDAN

COWPEAS

OATS

KOBE

JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUNE JULY AUG SEPT OCT NOV DEC



Supplement with hay

Agricultural Extension Service  
Texas A. & M. College System