

Grow now, graze later to reduce winter feed costs

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Grow now and graze later to get the most out of tall fescue pastures.

Winter stockpiling cool-season grasses carries cow-calf operations through the winter, the costliest time to feed cattle, says University of Missouri Extension state forage specialist Craig Roberts.

"If we don't stockpile, we'll find ourselves feeding hay or other concentrates just to get through the winter," says Roberts.

Fescue's long growing season and persistence make it Missouri's No. 1 forage. Its waxy leaves make it the cool-season grass best adapted for stockpiling for use in fall and winter in Missouri. The waxy surface keeps it from getting soggy over winter.

Producers should remove cows from fescue pastures before applying nitrogen, the nutrient that most increases yield in grasses. August-applied nitrogen helps grasses grow until after frost, when grazing can resume.

Timing nitrogen application before fall rains is vital for growth, Roberts says. In northern Missouri, this is generally the first week of August. For the rest of the state, it is during the second week of August.

Application amounts vary. The amount of nitrogen to apply to Kentucky 31 and novel-endophyte fescues differs, says Roberts. Too much nitrogen on K-31 increases toxins, hurting herd health and profitability.

"We want to do everything we can to reduce those toxins and make money on these animals," he says.

Toxins in fescue spike in spring and fall in Missouri, with the fall peak occurring

around early November.

Fall toxins harder to control

There are fewer ways to manage toxins in fall than spring. These controls must be carried out on multiple levels, and all increase input costs. A single practice can offer partial relief but will not be enough to prevent health problems in animals.

"There is no such thing as THE solution for Kentucky 31 fescue," Roberts says. Nitrogen application is just one, but a critical one.

Roberts says the best way to reduce toxins in fescue is to renovate pastures from K-31 to novel-endophyte fescues. For information, visit the Alliance for Grassland Renewal website at www.GrasslandRenewal.org.

"Stockpiling is where novel-endophyte fescues show off," Roberts says. Novel-endophyte stockpiles are highly nutritional, with high protein and energy content because they have no stems or seed heads.

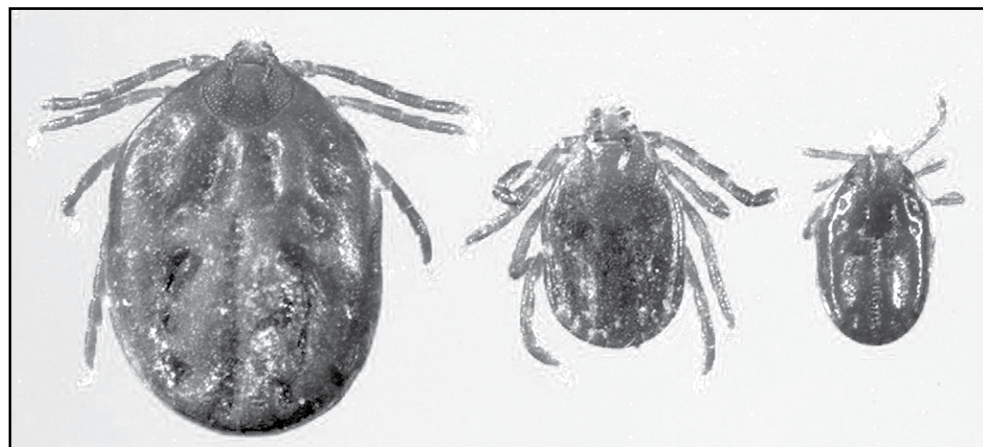
Guidelines for nitrogen fertilizer amounts

Roberts recommends the following when applying nitrogen:

- Toxins vary year to year, so nitrogen rates may vary.
- Use 40 pounds of nitrogen per acre or less on toxic fescue varieties such as Kentucky 31. Rates higher than this increase toxins.
- Use 60-100 pounds per acre for novel-endophyte fescues.

For more information, visit your county MU Extension center or see the MU Extension Integrated Pest Management video "Fall Forage Stockpiling" at youtu.be/oxs8pOFFpw4.

Source: Craig Roberts, 573-882-0481



Asian Longhorned Tick Confirmed in Missouri

First confirmed presence in Greene County.

By Missouri Dept. of Agriculture
Contributed

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. - The Missouri Department of Agriculture, working in conjunction with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services and Missouri State University, has confirmed the first finding of an Asian longhorned tick (*Haemaphysalis longicornis*) in Missouri. Missouri becomes the 16th state with a presence of the tick species, following the first confirmed report of the Asian longhorned tick in the United States in 2017.

Asian longhorned ticks are light brown in color and are very small, often smaller than a sesame seed. Unlike other ticks, a single female Asian longhorned tick can produce offspring (as many as 1,000 at a time) without mating. That means individual animals could host thousands of ticks, which can cause great stress on a heavily infested animal.

The Department encourages producers to continue protective measures and to check their livestock regularly for ticks. Keeping

grass and weeds trimmed and clearing away brush are important tick prevention practices. If you spot any unusual looking ticks or large infestations on your animals, contact your local veterinarian.

According to the Center for Disease Control, the Asian longhorned tick appears to be less attracted to human skin. However, ticks of any kind should be removed immediately, as they can carry diseases that affect human health. Use EPA-approved insect repellent when you will be in or near tall grasses or wooded areas.

Research on the presence of tick species in Missouri continues through a partnership between the Missouri Department of Conservation and A.T. Still University. Residents are asked to send ticks to the University through September 2022 so that University researchers can study the distribution of ticks in Missouri and any human pathogens transmitted by those ticks. For more information, or to find out how to submit a sample, visit [Missouri ticks and tick-borne pathogen surveillance \(atsu.edu\)](https://missouri-ticks-and-tick-borne-pathogen-surveillance.atsu.edu).

MCA, Landowners Welcome Court Decision on Navigable Waters Protection Rule

By Missouri Cattlemen's Association
Contributed

The U.S. District Court in South Carolina dismissed a challenge to the Navigable Waters Protection Rule (NWPR) and granted a remand without vacatur, ensuring the rule remains in effect until the Biden Administration finalizes a new rule.

"Going back on the word of the NWPR is a slap in the face to farm and ranch families.

It protects landowners from pervasive invasions of private property rights where the EPA has complete control of every drop of water in the country, from a mud puddle to a farm pond," said Missouri Cattlemen's Association President Patty Wood.

In June, with the full support of MCA and Missouri Farm Bureau, among others, Missouri Attorney General Eric Schmitt wrote a letter to the EPA opposing the reconsideration of the NWPR.

"Missouri's farmers and ranchers have been tending to their land for generations. They don't need another federal government land grab threatening their livelihood and ability to make a living," said Attorney General Schmitt. "President Obama's Waters of the United States rule was a disaster for Missouri's farmers, ranchers, and small businesses - we cannot return to that level of unprecedented federal overreach and intrusion."

"We fully support Attorney

General Schmitt's efforts to push back on the reconsideration of the Navigable Waters Protection Rule," Wood said.

National Cattlemen's Beef Association, along with other agricultural groups, are engaged in litigation across the country to defend the NWPR and are pleased with this key legal victory.

"The NWPR is a major improvement to the widely overreaching 2015 Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule," said NCBA Chief

Environmental Counsel Scott Yager. "NCBA has long fought to protect private property rights, opposes any federal action that hinders producers' ability to make investments in their land and care for their cattle. Moving forward, NCBA will continue engaging with the Biden Administration, Congress and the Courts to protect cattle producers' property rights."

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