

STOCKPILE TALL FESCUE TO REDUCE HAY NEEDS

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Hay production and feeding are the single most expensive parts of beef cattle production. Stockpiling (accumulating) the fall growth of tall fescue can lengthen the grazing season and decrease the hay needed to get cattle through the winter.

Why stockpile? Research has shown that the fall growth of tall fescue will remain good quality into January or February. Stockpiling the fall growth for later grazing will enable cattle to graze during the winter, which is the most difficult time of the year to maintain body condition.

Stockpiled tall fescue will:

- < Provide 45-60 days extra grazing in fall.
- < Maintain quality into early winter.
- < Be higher in quality than the average hay in Tennessee.
- < Cost half as much as the same amount of forage put up as hay.

Steps for stockpiling tall fescue:

1. Clip or graze pastures in mid-August to remove all summer growth.
2. When fall rains begin, apply 180 lb. ammonium nitrate per acre.
3. Keep cattle off pasture until after frost. Strip graze field to decrease waste.

Additional information on beef cattle nutrition can be obtained by contacting your local Agricultural Extension Service office or from the Extension-Beef, Sheep & Horse home page:

www.utextension.utk.edu/ansci

Fertilization Plan for Stockpiling Fescue

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	
Field #	No. Acres	Pounds N/Acre	Fertilizer % N ¹	Pounds of Fertilizer/Acre $2/3 * 100$	Fertilizer Total $4 * 1$

¹Ammonium Nitrate = 34% N