

RANGE and WILDLANDS

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SEASONAL VERSUS CONTINUOUS GRAZING ON ANNUAL RANGE

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SEASONAL VERSUS CONTINUOUS GRAZING ON ANNUAL RANGE

Continuous grazing on annual range has produced better animal productivity than repeated seasonal grazing systems at the Hopland Field Station in research by Dr. Harold Heady, Professor of Range Management, University of California. This study, reported in "Rangelands" Vol. 1, No. 6, Dec. 1979, was started to test the differences and effects of continuous versus repeated seasonal grazing.

Continuous and repeated seasonal grazing produced similar patterns in foliage cover, standing crop, and botanical composition measured in ungrazed vegetation at the end of each growing season. June cover in those pastures grazed on a repeated seasonal basis showed the same yearly differences as cover in the pasture grazed continuously. Total standing crop in June also responded similarly to both kinds of grazing treatments over a three year period. The relative proportions of desirable annual plants such as soft chess, wild oats, filaree, and clovers were remarkably alike under both grazing treatments. The same results of similar botanical composition also occurred for undesirable annual plants such as silver hairgrass, ripgut, and goldfields.

The significant overall conclusion demon-

strated by this study is that an annual grassland divided into three pastures grazed seasonally responded identically to an undivided annual grassland grazed continuously. Also, ewe performance and lamb weaning weights in the pasture with yearlong-continuous grazing were consistently better than animal performance in the pastures grazed on a seasonal basis. These results strongly suggest that repeated seasonal grazing systems in California annual grasslands will not provide enough benefits to warrant the time and expense required to establish and maintain these grazing systems.

A.S.C.S. CONSERVATION PROGRAM

The Agricultural Conservation Program of the A.S.C.S. (Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service) will have a sign-up period for next year's program in October. The County Executive Director of A.S.C.S., John Smythe, says they plan a three week sign-up period running from 20 October 1980 to 7 November 1980.

Growers who want to participate in any of the 1980-81 conservation programs should be sure to sign up during this three week period. The programs available include incentive payments for soil and water conservation programs, rangeland improvement programs, brush control and fuel management programs, and forest improvement programs for qualifying

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Cooperative extension Work in Agriculture and Home Economics, U.S. Department of Agriculture, University of California, and Mendocino County cooperating.

applicants. This sign-up period can include practices that will be completed in the fall of 1981.

POISON PLANTS IN YARDS

A stock poisoning problem recently occurred as a result of ornamental prunings from a yard getting into a pasture with livestock. There have been several stock poisoning problems occur in the past in Mendocino County as a result of prunings from ornamental plants being thrown over a fence into a pasture.

Stock poisoning plants such as Angel's trumpet, Oleander, Daphne, larkspur, foxglove, night-blooming jessamine, Pittosporum, caper spurge, and Yew are commonly found as ornamentals in gardens in Mendocino County. Prunings in yards should be disposed of in such a manner as to be sure they do not get into an area where livestock could get exposed.

"Poisonous Plants in the Garden" is a University of California publication available at the Farm Advisors Office in Ukiah. This could be a valuable publication for people selecting ornamentals for areas near livestock.

NORTHAM SUB CLOVER

Northam is an outstanding new early sub clover for Mendocino County and a possible replacement for Geraldton. Northam produced 1,486 pounds per acre on 7 March 1980 and at the same time Geraldton produced 1,099 pounds per acre at the Hopland Field Station in tests by Dr. Milton Jones.

Northam is an Australian variety that was selected to replace Geraldton for higher production and to reduce estrogen levels in feed. For areas in Mendocino County where early feed production is a factor, this new variety should be considered.

Representatives of seed companies say seed stocks of Northam are very limited

this year because the bulk of the seed is being used in Australia.

NEW PHOSPHATE FERTILIZER

A new fertilizer (0-36-0-20S) for range and pasture clover fertilization has recently become available locally. This fertilizer is a good source of phosphate and contains elemental sulfur. This combination fertilizer makes it possible to apply phosphate fertilizer and elemental sulfur in one application and save a second trip over a planting.

Mendocino County is generally deficient in phosphorus and sulfur for clovers and legumes. Applying soil sulfur alone is difficult in broadcast fertilizer spreaders because of uneven distribution. In Willits last season a broadcast soil sulfur application resulted in an appearance of sulfur deficient strips, and clover tissue analysis confirmed this diagnosis. The soil sulfur didn't broadcast out, so about one third of the field produced very poorly.

The new fertilizer (0-36-0-20S) can provide long lasting sources of phosphorus and sulfur for range and pasture clovers and legumes, can apply both sulfur and phosphorus in one material, and should provide a material that will apply sulfur evenly.

Sincerely,

William H. Brooks III
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