Management strategies for intensive, sustainable beef cattle production on tall fescue and winter annuals





- Greatest economic loss in Cow Calf Industry

   Reduce calf weaning percentage by 16% = \$354
   million cost to the industry
  - Weaning Weights reduced by 50 lbs = \$255 million cost
- Stocker losses are commonly result of reduce ADG and animal quality
  - Fall ~0.5 lb/day
  - Spring ~ 1.0 lb/d
  - Calf value reduced by \$5/cwt
  - Total reduction \$140/calf











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#### Plant Responses to Chaparral Suppression of Tall Fescue Seedheads

- Chaparral applied late March or early April.
   89% infected tall fescue
- 2 to 3 week period of yellowing and growth lag
- 15 fold reduction in reproductive tiller density
   6 tillers/sq yd vs 90 tillers/sq yd
- Forage mass of untreated 15% greater than treated — 3,541 lb/acre vs 3,065 lb/acre
  - CP of Treated was greater 14.5% vs 12.1%
  - Digestibility of Treated was greater 78 vs 67%







#### Interseeding

- Timing: after warm-season grass goes dormant
   1 week of nights < 60° F</li>
- Early planting September 15 to October 1
- May need glyphosate application to stop bermudagrass growth Ideal planting – October 1 – October 20
- Get seeds in ground
- No-till drill
- Disk, broadcast, drag
- Planting: 100 to 120 lb small grain + 20 lb Ryegrass
  - Rye
  - Wheat
  - Oats
- Fertilizer: P & K to test, 50 lb N in fall and spring





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	September w/ Roundup	October w/o Roundup	
On test BW	601	599	
Off test BW	851	779	
ADG	2.4	1.9 163	
Total gain	266		











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#### Cow Performance on Winter Annuals

- With winter annual pasture and limited hay
  - Hay intake will decrease to < 10 lb/d</li>
  - A cow in early lactation will gain 2.75 lbs per day
    Gain a BCS in 30 days
    - Cows in BCS 4 will have BCS 6 by April
  - No better or cheaper way to add condition to thin cows.

#### Limit-Grazing Interseeded Bermudagrass

- Bermudagrass was interseeded with wheat, rye, & ryegrass.
  - Base forage of bermudagrass pasture with *ad libitum* Bermuda/dallisgrass hay: Graze pasture 2 d/wk (0.2 acre/cow) Graze pasture 3 d/wk (0.3 acre/cow)
- Control cows had bermuda/dallisgrass hay plus a corn gluten feed (CGF; 21% CP) supplement fed at 2.0 lb/cow/d
- Grazed winter pasture beginning in January 6 (Feb./Mar. calving)



	CGF	2DW	3DW	
Hay intake	25	22	22	
Hay reduction	-	14%	14%	



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adjustments.

