Summer forage management

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Reduced cutting height increases stress

Effect of cutting height on yield

Cumulative Yield (kg DM Ha$^{-1}$)

Cutting Height (cm)

Effect of cutting height on regrowth

- 11 days after defoliation
  - 7.5 cm = 3”
  - 2.5 cm = 1”

Effect of cutting height on persistence

Thinking ahead – summer slump
Summer stockpiling

• Defer grazing on selected pastures: spring green-up to fall
• Utilize while fall-stockpiling
## Summer stockpiled tall fescue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study</th>
<th>TDN</th>
<th>CP</th>
<th>Forage availability</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Booher, Benner, &amp; Fiske. 2017. VCE CSES-201NP.</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>11.3</td>
<td>6840</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Summer annuals
When do annuals make sense?

• When seed is discounted
When do annuals make sense?

- When seed is discounted
- During the pasture renovation process
When do annuals make sense?

- When seed is discounted
- During the pasture renovation process
- When high quality or emergency feed is needed
Evaluating hayfields and pastures
Spray-smother-spray

1st Spray
Kills:
• old stand
• weeds

2nd Spray
Kills:
• volunteer seed
• escape tillers
• weeds
• smother crop

Spray - smother - spray

Season

Yield

Tall Fescue
Smother
Novel

Spring
Summer
Fall

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Spray-wait-spray

**First Spray:**
Kills:
- old fescue

**Second Spray:**
Kills:
- volunteer seedlings
- escape tillers
- weeds

**Clip**

**Season:**
- Spring
- Summer
- Fall

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Clipping pastures

- Pinkeye control? No evidence
- Weed control? Takes repeated mowing
- Improve nutritive value? Useful for some
- Aesthetics? Depends on the beholder