Goat-Pasture
Renovation Study

Tony Shirley—Terry Hutchens

Bobby and Michelle Watts of Watts Farm, Harrodsburg KY., were cooperators for the tall fescue renovation project. This study was conducted by Tony Shirley, county extension agent, and Terry Hutchens. Seed was supplied by Caudill Seed Co. Louisville, KY.

The project begin in the late fall of 2004, with an overall objectives of enhancing tall fescue stands through renovation. Make tall fescue pasture more suitable for grazing goats. Establish the stand using a limited amount of mechanization, because goat producers have limited accessibility to farm equipment. Observe reliability of suggested seeding rates and methods. Evaluate forage standability and palatability.

Fall of 2004

2. A 3-acre tall fescue pasture was disk and 2 bu of cereal rye was seeded on the 3 acre tract.

March 2005

3. Goats were used to graze down the cereal rye and then were removed from the renovation site.
4. Serecia lespedeza and Serecia lespedeza + Brown Tyne forage chicory was interseeded into the rye stubble.
5. Seeding was by knapsack seeder. Seed were applied on the length of the field plots as well as across the plots.

6. Seeding rates were 30 lbs/acre for Sericea lespedeza and 2 lbs/acre for Brown Tyne Chicory.

The plots were then dragged with a chain drag, assuring good seed soil contact.

September 2005 Stand Counts

7. The average stand count for the Sericea lespedeza only plots, September 22, 2006, was 17 plants/ft^2 for the lespedeza.
8. Stand counts for Sericea lespedeza + Brown Tyne forage Chicory was 16 and 6 plants/ft^2 respectively.

Conditions of Establishment and Grazing Management

Conditions of establishment were extreme. The Kentucky rainfall climate data for March 2005-March-2006 (University of Kentucky Agricultural Weather Center) shows that rainfall levels were below normal for the months of March, May, June, July, and September of 2005. Local estimates were that the new seeding received only 2 inches of rain after the March 2005 seeding date. The stand data was excellent, The pasture was grazed 3 times since the march seeding date. Therefore, both species exhibited a high degree of drought tolerance.