

Grazing Brown Midrib Sorghum for Dairy Cows
Bracken County, Kentucky
David Appelman, County ANR Extension Agent

This was in a grazing trial with corn on a dairy farm. I will say that the main thing we learned from this trial is to NOT GRAZE CORN WITH DAIRY CATTLE! Some of the symptoms we saw included, low dry matter intake, acidosis, and a drop in production. Our main goal with this trial was to determine what crop would be the best to plant while trying to replace the fescue.

Fescue Replacement Cost and Returns (per acre)

	CORN	BMR SORGHUM
Burn Down (Roundup)	\$25.50	\$25.50
Fertilizer (N only)	\$36.40	\$29.40
Seed Cost	\$25.00	\$40.00
Equipment Rental	\$0.00	\$10.00
Reseeding Cost	\$39.00	\$39.00
Equipment Rental	\$10.00	\$10.00
Total Cost	\$139.50	\$153.90

Results:

Corn- 40% utilization, poor cow performance, not enough dry matter intake, acidosis, low production.

Brown Midrib Sorghum - 3 grazings, yield estimate at 8 tons per acre, cow performance and utilization - excellent

Fescue - GONE!

Due to the problems with the corn, we felt that the production data on the herd would not be a good indicator of the sorghum performance.

David Appelman
CEA for Agriculture
Bracken County Extension Service
1120 Brooksville - Germantown Rd
Brooksville, KY 41004
Phone (606) 735-2141
FAX (606) 735-2142
dappelma@ca.uky.edu