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2015 North Dakota Agricultural Communications
CDE Editing Exercise

Contestant's name _____ Score _____

FFA chapter _____

Twenty-five words or phrases are underlined in the news release below. Some are correct and others contain errors. Indicate in the spaces to the right if the words or phrases are correct (C) or incorrect (I). If they are incorrect, correct them using standard editing marks or other clear marks indicating your edits. Major rewording is not required to correct the problems. Corrections involving major rewording will not be accepted as correct answers. You may find errors related to grammar, punctuation, word usage, spelling and Associated Press style issues.

Early Season Grazing Targets Kentucky Bluegrass

STREETER, N.D. - Early season grazing could be an affective way to control Kentucky bluegrass, North Dakota State University researchers and Extension Service specialists say.

Kentucky bluegrass is a perennial cool-season grass with tiny leaves. It heads out early and does not provide useful forage for very long. It also begins growing earlier in the Spring than native species. That gives it an advantage because it can use soil water and block sunlight to the later-emerging grass species.

Early season grazing can be a way of shifting species in a pasture, says Bob Patton, range scientist at the Central Grasslands research extension center near Streeter.

Fara Brummer, area Extension livestock systems specialist at the Central Grasslands center, recommends that if the objective is to decrease Kentucky bluegrass in a pasture, producers should turn cattle out before the grass reaches the 2-leaf stage, while it is vulnerable to grazing pressure.

However, she also cautions that producers only should target pastures with a 20% or greater amount of bluegrass for early intensive grazing. Paying attention to the cattle removal date is critical so that later-maturing native species are not grazed more than once. Grazing them more than once reduce their growth and vigor.

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"The idea is to stress the bluegrass, with the understanding that it will have less growth and vigor in the pasture for the remainder of the year, especially if conditions are dry," Brummer says.

Targeting plant species for removal with grazing can offer a cost-competitive advantage as well, says Dr. Kevin Sedivec, Extension rangeland management specialist. Early turnout means producers need less harvested feed and ~~less~~ fewer laborers to deliver that feed.

Miranda Meehan, Extension livestock environmental stewardship specialist, says she doesn't recommend early turnout for pastures dominated by native species, especially with the risk of drought. But for pastures that are heavily dominated by bluegrass, it's a good way to allow native grasses to gain a competitive advantage, and increase forage production and quality.

In the center's research, the cattle are stocked at a moderate stocking rate of 1.1 ~~Animal Unit Months~~ (AUMs) per acre on a loamy soil. The early intensive treatment will mean more animals per pasture because their grazing period is short – approximately a quarter of the time of the seasonlong trials.

On average, 36 heifers are grazed per pasture in the early intensive trial and 9 heifers per similar pasture are grazed in the seasonal grazing treatment.

This is the fifth year of the Central Grasslands study that compares early intensive grazing ~~to~~ with seasonal grazing. So far, Kentucky bluegrass aerial cover and frequency declined on early intensive grazing but not on seasonal grazing.

This year, center researchers turned yearling heifers out on pasture April 24th, which is at least a month earlier than the average turnout date for the state.

For more information on this study, visit the Central Grasslands center's website at www.ag.ndsu.edu/CentralGrasslandsREC.

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