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Fact Sheet 2014: Quick-N-Big® Crabgrass & Red River Crabgrass Production & Volunteer Management.

Forage Demonstrations: Many university research and extension services, plus Noble Foundation, have researched/demonstrated the Quick-N-Big® Crabgrass (QNBCG®) and Red River Crabgrass (RRCG) forage since they were available. Dalrymple Farms is pleased to provide seed for these purposes. Those cases include agricultural institutions from Arkansas, Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Virginia, and others. Thank's!!!

Some 2013 demonstration work by Brian Pugh, Oklahoma State University, in East Central Oklahoma showed QNBCG® and RRCG together producing an average of **9861 total lbs./ac.** QNBCG® was about **two weeks or more earlier** to reach proper grazing stage, thus **more productive** to that point by about **1161 lbs./ac. or 144%**. More early pasture is one of the QNBCG attributes. Dalrymple Farms on-farm experience over many years shows first growth of QNBCG® to usually be 2/3 to knee high, when RRCG is 3 to 6 inches tall. Second and later growths are similar if both grasses **are well managed**. RRCG total summer forage yields in the Oklahoma Demonstration were **1487 lbs./ac. more**, but part of that **difference might have been that the QNBCG was grazed the first time a little late (well headed) and that sets any forage back a little more than usual.**

The dry summers of 2006, 2011, and 2012 were educational, in that, QNBCG® tolerated the droughts equal to better than RRCG, and it grew more with limited precipitation than did RRCG. During 2011, the worst drought in 115 years in our farm region, QNBCG® succeeded in making a dry land meager yield, whereas RRCG did not make a useful growth. **DO NOT MISUNDERSTAND**, both are excellent, forage crabgrass's and this information is meant to be educational.

Now, back to the 9861 lbs./ac. forage production introduced above. When R. L. had a "real job" at Noble Foundation, projection methods were often used to estimate potential beef yield of various forages. Average daily gain (ADG) from stocker steers was taken for many years from stockers grazing common or RRCG. Overall, the crabgrass that was judged to be **"good to excellent" pasture (which is very similar to spring wheat pasture) produced an ADG of 1.8 lbs.** with some cattle herds **as high as over 2.9 lbs. ADG**. Cattle are better today than then, and today's ADG could likely be higher. Another parameter is that in the life of a stocker calf growing to be an 800 lb., more or less, feeder calf, it **requires about 18 lbs. of grass per day (dry weight basis)**.

With these above parameters in mind, the 9861 lbs./ac. could produce 548 stocker cattle grazing days/ac., and at 1.8 lbs. ADG, the estimated beef yield per ac. is 986 lbs./ac. (548 x 1.8). Realistic! Dalrymple Farms has had producers report over 1,000 lbs beef/ac **under high forage production management & good rotation grazing** techniques. At today's (Jan. , 2014) feeder calf market prices in our region , that 986 lbs. of beef could be worth about \$1578.00/Ac., more or less.

It is important to consider that these crabgrass's have an **absolutely tremendous fibrous root system**. That system, no doubt, helps these crabgrass's find and utilize new fertility and **residual fertility** left in the soil. That is often, in my view, why crabgrass can produce a good Oklahoma hay crop following wheat and often without more summer nitrogen (N). With that said, the 9,861 lbs./ac. of crabgrass above was produced with a "new" 70 lbs./ac. N. But there is no doubt in my mind, that the grass was also finding and using left over fertility from a prior time regardless of where it came from.

At today's stocker/feeder market in Oklahoma, these figures above are realistic. To help some more, regional cost of nitrogen fertilizer for Dalrymple Farm has gone down from \$0.72/lb. of N applied last March 2013, to \$0.47/lb. of N last October 2013. That is a decrease in price/lb. of N of about 35%, and that gives grass growers a **new view of nitrogen and nitrogen applications** on QNBCG® and RRCG pastures and meadows. That helps to reduce the cost of production per pound of beef made.

Relative to that, from R. L. 's experience with high quality grazed forage during tenure at Noble Foundation, **good pasture, rotationally grazed** with good No. 1 or No. 2 stocker cattle, produced from 3 lbs. up to 5 lbs. of beef/lb. of N applied, if the pastures were well properly grazed. Any less than 3 lbs. of beef per lb. of N applied, would indicate some sort of problem with the pasture or the cattle. With that in mind, the cost of N per lb. of beef today could be \$0.09 to \$0.16. Each one of us has to do our own dance, but to Dalrymple Farms, N to produce high quality QNBCG® and RRCG pastures, is rather low cost at today's N price and **value of calf gain**.

Bermudagrass and Crabgrass questions about ADG on crabgrass versus bermudagrass are often asked. Both forages are common in about 23 to 25 of the most S.E. states of the U.S. Many years ago R. L. interacted with a cattleman who had grazed 1,000's of stocker cattle over many years, with some only on crabgrass, and some only on bermudagrass. Nutrient management was essentially the same. That cattleman reported that the summer long **gain of stocker cattle on bermudagrass was essentially 1.0 lb. ADG**, and the summer long **gain of stocker cattle on crabgrass was essentially 1.75 lbs. ADG**. This cattleman was a superb record keeper and he knew what he was reporting. Thus, the ADG on crabgrass was 175% of that on bermudagrass. A good testimony for crabgrass forage. This experience is better than research.

Managing Volunteer QNBCG® and RRCG is often part of crabgrass management. See Fact Sheet No. 1999. What makes volunteer stands partly possible is **seed dormancy** and **slow germination** of "young" seeds. RRCG always has "high" seed dormancy of young seed, sometimes being up to over 90% soon after harvest and up to 1 to 2 months later. QNBCG® can also have seed dormancy up to over 90% soon after harvest, but seed dormancy breaks sooner than RRCG. Some seed dropped in mid-summer can sprout with summer rains. This "new volunteer" is very high quality, sometimes over 6 to 8 in. or more tall. It is roughly equal to fall wheat pasture in quality. Early sprouting is rarely the case with RRCG. So, it is okay to manage either variety for seed drop for volunteer any time of summer, but **it is more important to get seed drop in late summer for volunteer QNBCG®**.

A field study done on Dalrymple Farm in 2013 on QNBCG® seed that lay in the windrow from 9 to 78 days before threshing, showed some seed activity results. The seed averaged 52% germination (G) and 39% dormant (D) at 9 days in windrow, 95% G and 0% D at 44 Days in windrow, and 77% G and 7% D at 78 Days in windrow. The seed viability lasted a long time in the windrow/field environment without germinating, but germination declined by 78 days. **It is important to get seed drop late in summer if possible**. In Dalrymple Farm experience, volunteer stands were achieved behind seed harvest, grazing, or haying, for several consecutive years. But Dalrymple's fields are rotated out of seed production to control weedy plants so future seed harvests are then as pure and clean as feasible. This then limits having the longest term possible volunteer stands.

SEE SEED LIST ON PAGE 3.