

Grasses in Mississippi

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Perennials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Cool-season <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tall Fescue ▪ Prairie Bromegrass ▪ Orchardgrass – Warm-season <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bahiagrass ▪ Bermudagrass ▪ Bluestem ▪ Dallisgrass ▪ Gamagrass ▪ Indiangrass ▪ Johnsongrass ▪ Switchgrass 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Annuals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Cool-season <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Annual Ryegrass ▪ Cereal Grains – Warm-season <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Corn ▪ Crabgrass ▪ Millets ▪ Sorghum-sudan ▪ Sudangrass ▪ Teffgrass
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Legumes in Mississippi

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Perennials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Cool-season <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Alfalfa ▪ Red Clover ▪ White Clover – Warm-season <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sericea Lespedeza ▪ Perennial Peanut 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Annuals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Cool-season <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Arrowleaf Clover ▪ Ball Clover ▪ Berseem Clover ▪ Caleypea ▪ Crimson Clover ▪ Hop Clover ▪ Persian Clover ▪ Vetch – Warm-season <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Annual Lespedeza ▪ Alyceclover ▪ Cowpea ▪ Soybean
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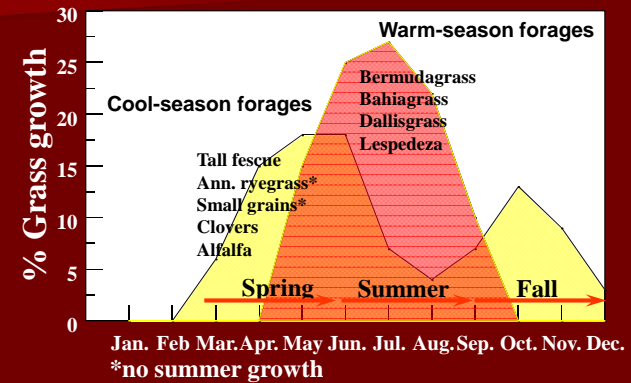
Forbs in Mississippi

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Perennials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Chicory – Plantain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Annuals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Brassicas
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No Silver Bullets

- No single forage variety is best suited for all environments.
- Variety selection is influenced by:
 - Average rainfall and temperature
 - Soil drainage
 - Erosion hazard
 - Soil pH
 - Soil nutrient supply
 - Intended use

Balancing forage needs



Forage compatibility



Grow more than one

- Performance can vary from year to year
- Planting at least two varieties will reduce risk
- Varying maturity dates

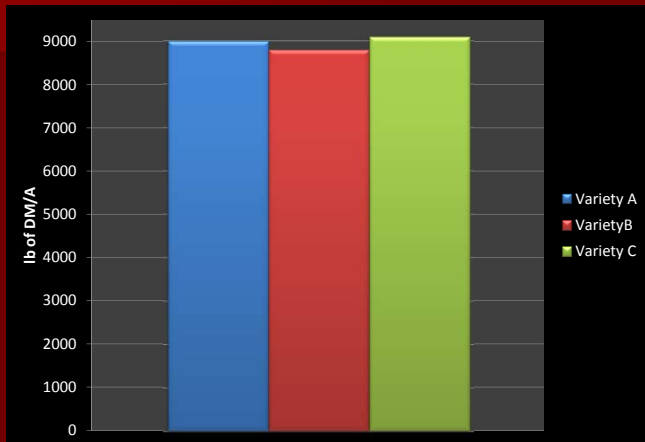
Keep up to date

- New varieties generally out performer older varieties
- Monitor new varieties before planting
- Plant newer varieties on smaller acreage
- Plant the most consistent varieties on the majority of the acreage

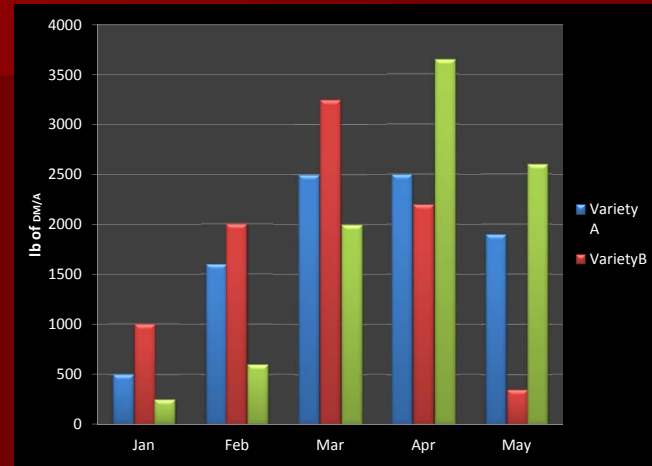
Selecting forage varieties

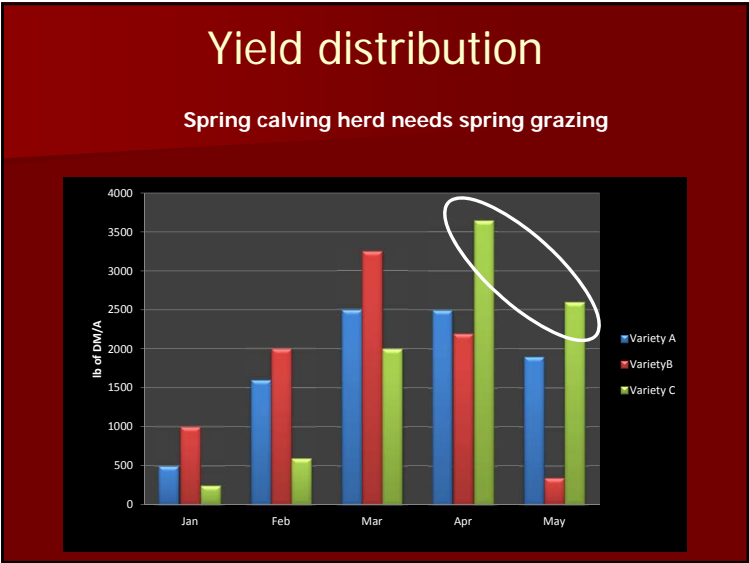
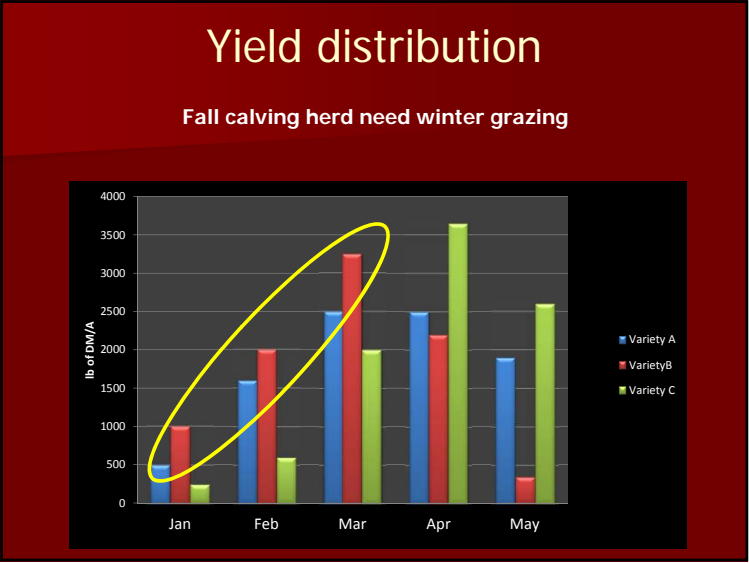
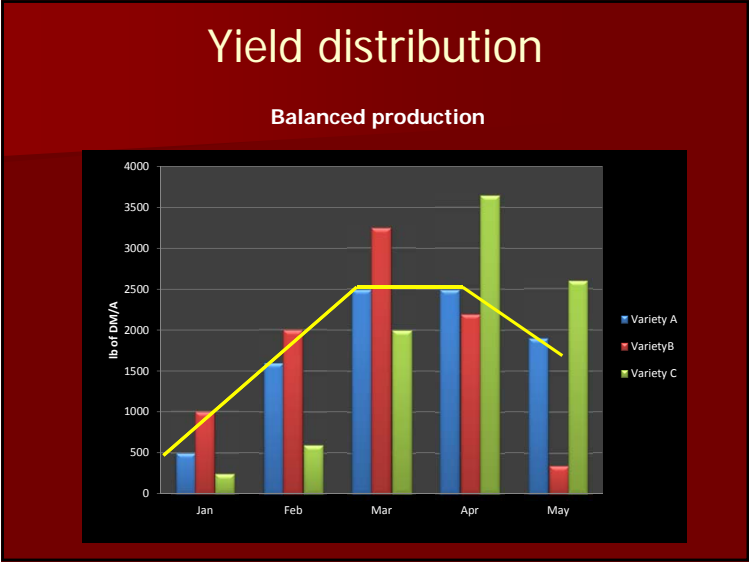
- Use varieties that have been tested in **Official Variety Test!!**
- Make sure the variety is adapted to your climate
- Use 2- or 3-yr average yields at a test location closest to the farm

Yield distribution



Yield distribution

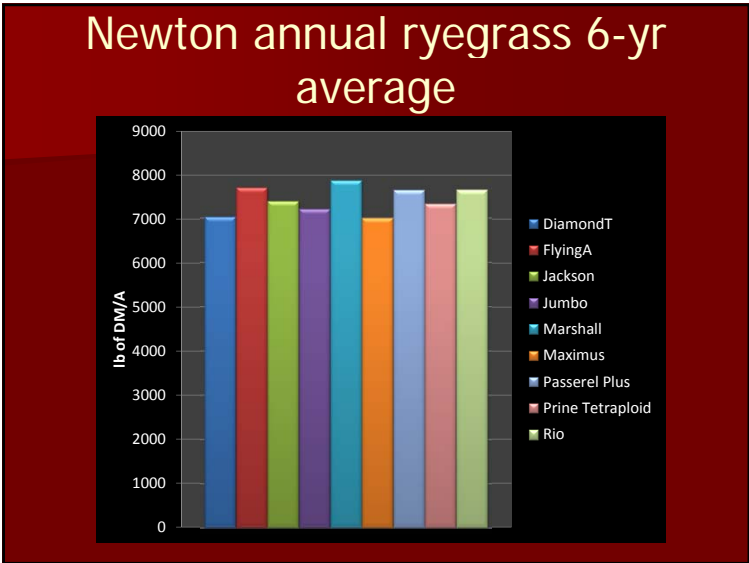
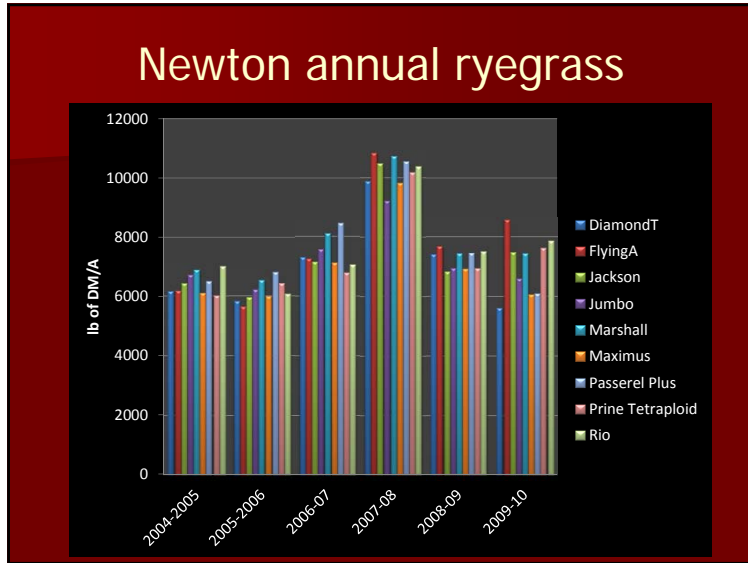




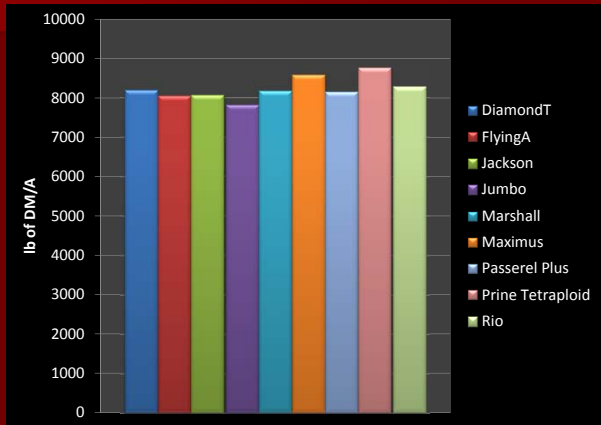


Annual ryegrass variety testing

- Four locations
 - Holly Springs
 - Starkville
 - Newton
 - Poplarville
- 28+ varieties tested annually
- Three to six harvest per year



MSU annual ryegrass 6-yr average

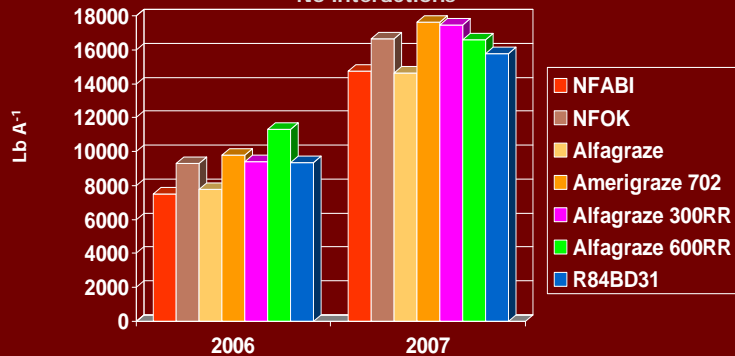


Evaluation of Conventional and RoundupReady® Grazing Tolerant Alfalfa Cultivars in the Deep South USA



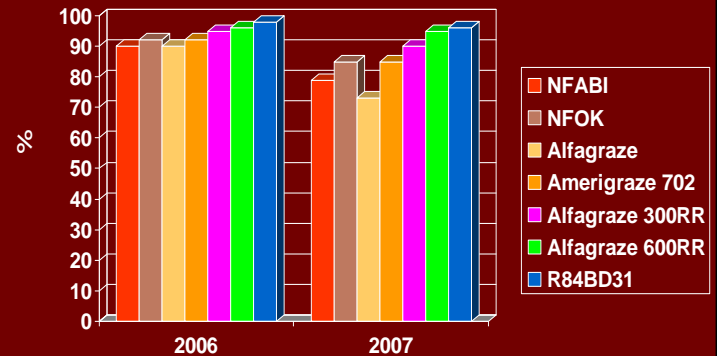
Establishment Year (2006) vs. First Production Year (2007)

Year Effect, $P < 0.0001$, Cultivar Effect, $P = 0.02$,
No interactions

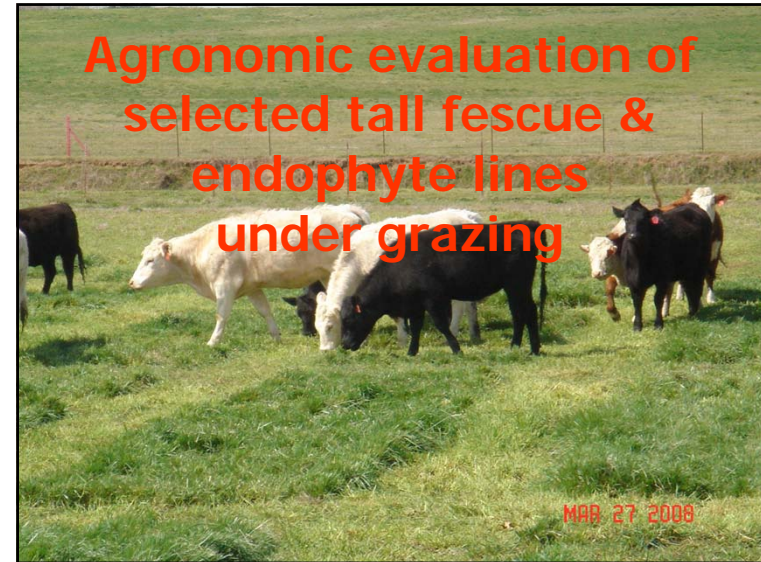


Persistence

Year Effect, $P = 0.0002$, Cultivar Effect, $P < 0.0001$
No interactions



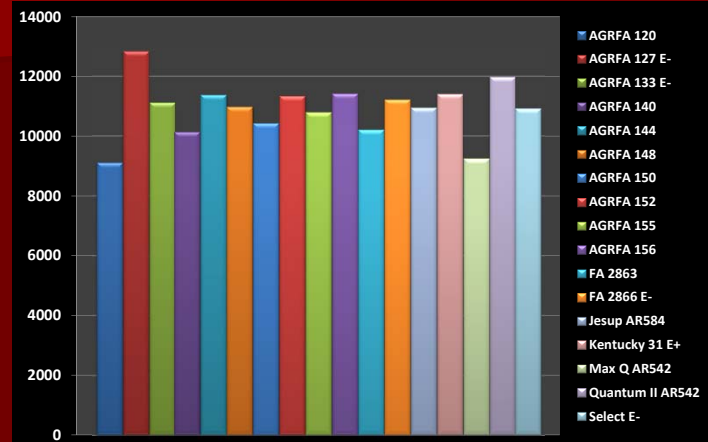
Alfagrazo with and without Roundup technology

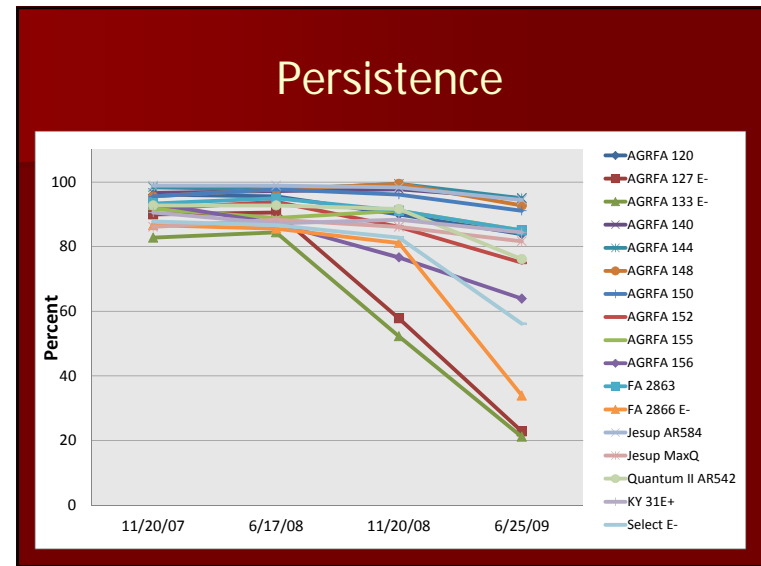
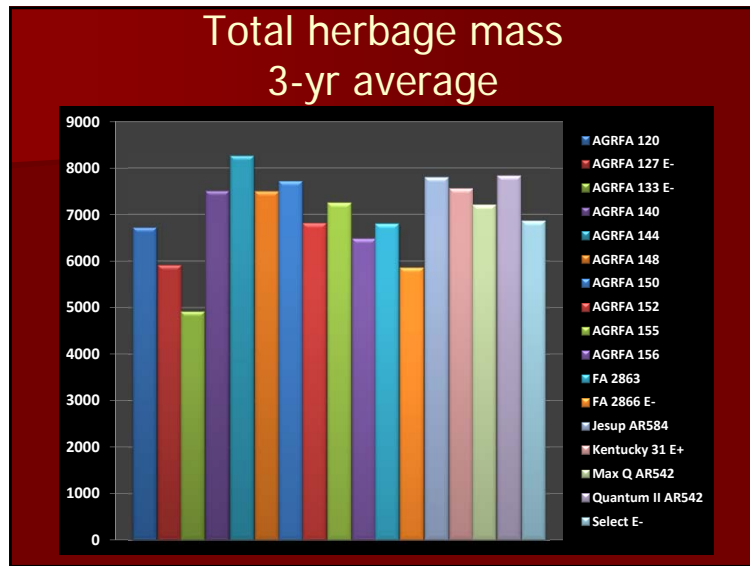
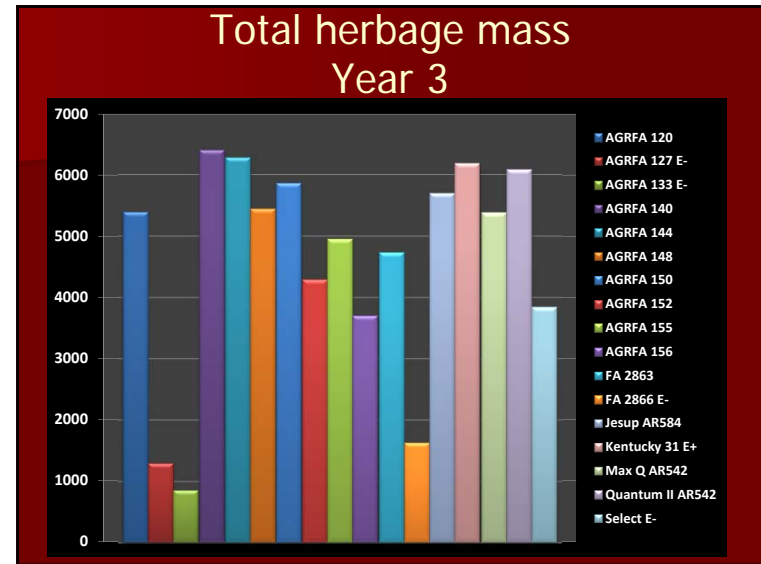
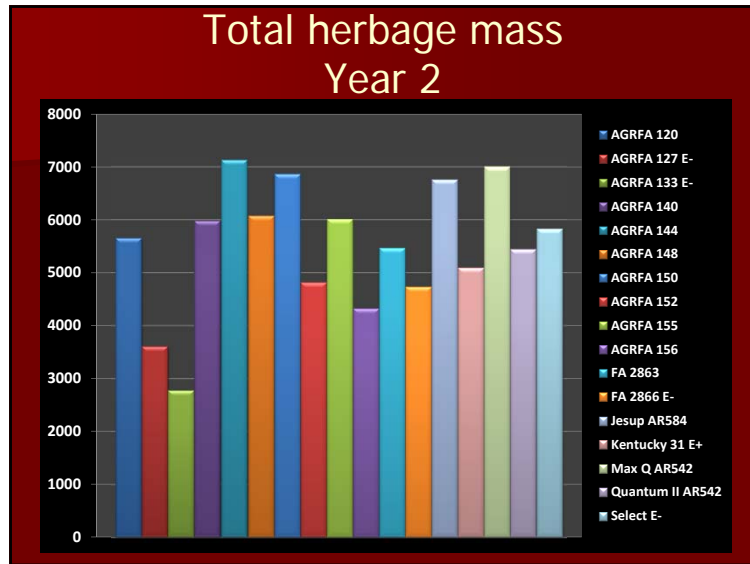


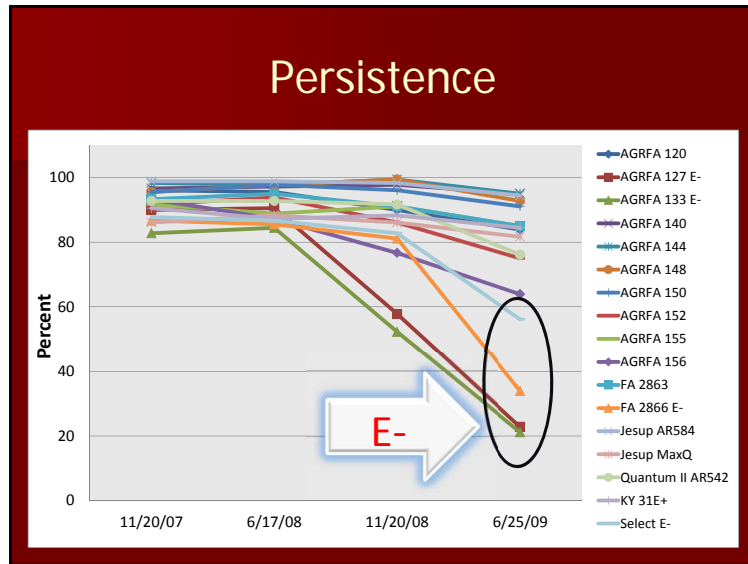
Small plots pre and post grazing



Total herbage mass Year 1

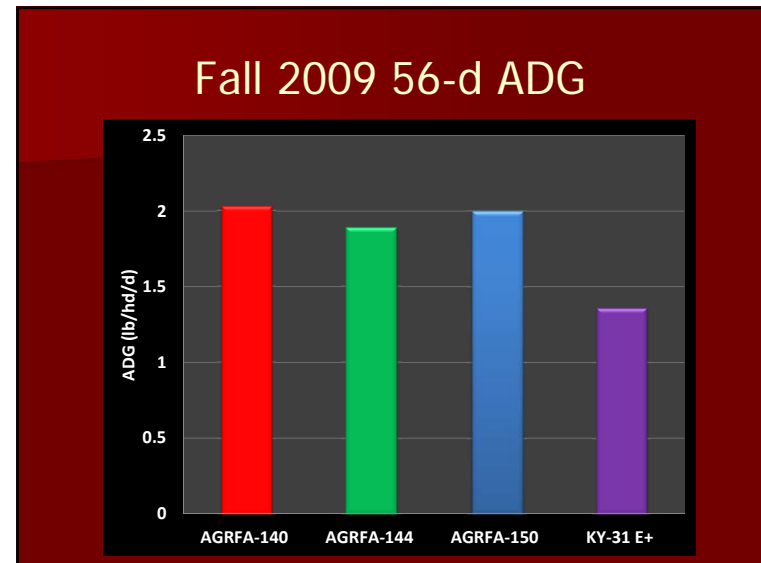
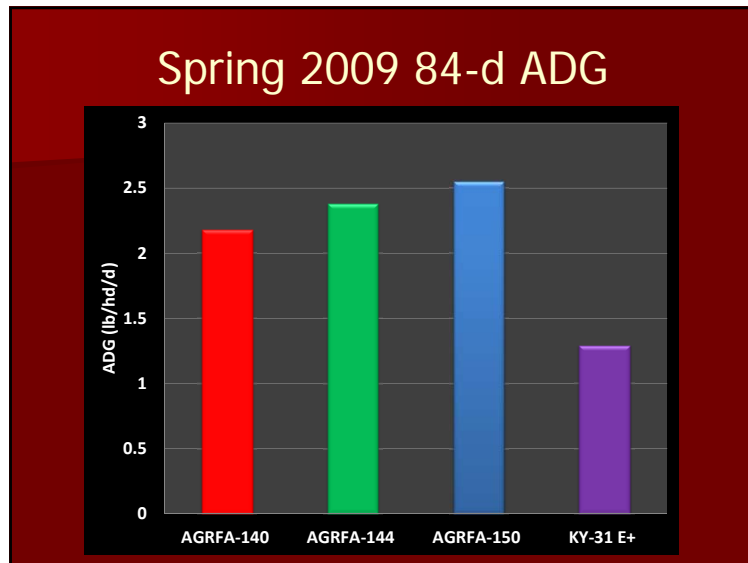




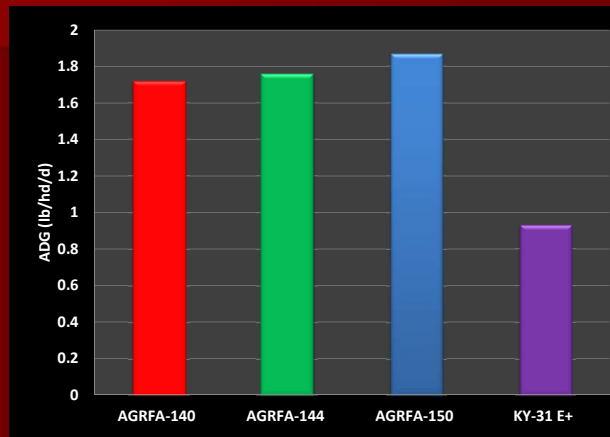


Agronomic and Animal Performance Evaluation of Selected Tall Fescue/Endophyte Lines

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Spring 2010 84-d ADG



Forage Variety Trials Information

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- County Extension Office
- Website:
 - <http://msucares.com/crops/variety/index.html>
 - Preliminary yield Data
 - Published Trials

