

# The AMPAC Impact

October 2008

A Quarterly News Publication



Well, summer has officially come and gone in the southeastern part of the United States, and like last year (and the year before, and the year before...) we need rain. I hate to hear about the severe flooding that is happening across America's Heartland, and I heard today that the amount of water that's flowing into the Mississippi River could fill ALL of the lakes in Georgia with more to spare! When looking at the severity of the drought across much of the south and southeast ([www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor](http://www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor)) many of the same areas of the country are suffering once again from extremely dry conditions. While there are still hopeful people, I thought it might be good to re-visit some grazing ideas, particularly Managed-intensive Grazing (MIG).



Summer drought in Anderson, SC

If you travel across the south and southeast like I do, it's easy to see examples of intensive grazing. Pastures that have been grazed into the ground are unfortunately a common sight. Intensive grazing is NOT what needs to be discussed. Animals naturally will graze intensively. The key though is to "manage" these grazing behaviors of our animals. As a manager, it's up to you to control the grazing animals (where and how often). It's critical to good pasture management for us to stay in control of the animals. Management-intensive Grazing refers to several grazing systems where animals are allowed to graze individual paddocks, while other paddocks are allowed to

recover and rest. By using this approach, farmers can make more efficient use of their land than continually grazing or stocking on large pasture. When utilized, Management-intensive Grazing can increase the yield of animal production per acre, and in most cases, increased profit per farm.

At what point do we turn animals in to a given paddock, and how long do we leave them there? How long should a forage species rest between grazings? I realize that the answer to all of these questions is "It depends". It depends on what the stocking rate is, how much forage is available, what time of year... the list goes on and on.

As a manager, we must set obtainable and realistic goals when it concerns grazing. We've got to use available resources, technology, and past experiences to set these goals, but ultimately the goals are:

1. Meet livestock nutritional needs
2. Optimize forage production for quality, yield and persistence
3. Utilize pastures efficiently and economically

The optimum Managed-intensive Grazing program provides several advantages including:

- Increased pasture yield and improved forage distribution
- More persistent pasture plants due to adequate recovery time between grazing periods
- Daily forage intake is more efficiently rationed
- Reduction in machinery costs, fuel, and facilities
- Better distribution of animal waste, therefore improving soil quality and fertility

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Concerns using Managed-intensive Grazing are adequate water supply available for all paddocks, and good cross fencing in order to limit access to paddocks by grazing animals. Labor to move animals should also be considered, and a good understanding of why and when to rotate animals will be critical.

Livestock nutritional needs vary by species, but generally are very similar. Growing forages is almost always the cheapest source of energy and protein. As far as a general rule of thumb to live by when it pertains to grazing, recommendations should be approximately as follows:

<u>Forage Species</u>	<u>Begin Grazing Height</u>	<u>End Grazing Height</u>	<u>Rest Period</u>
<b>Orchardgrass</b> <i>(Tekapo)</i>	8-10 inches	4-5 inches	25-40 days
<b>Ryegrass</b> <i>(Power, Tonga)</i>	6-8 inches	2-3 inches	10-20 days*
<b>Fescue</b> <i>(endophyte-free)</i> <b>(Bronson, Goliath)</b>	8-10 inches**	3-4 inches	25-35 days
<i>(endophyte-infected)</i>	6-8 inches**	2 inches	25-35 days
<b>Smooth Bromes</b> <i>(York)</i>	10-20 inches	4-6 inches	30-40 days

\* Ryegrass should be grazed close going into summer/winter dormancy

\*\* If starting to produce seed heads



If management practices allow forages to get ahead of optimum grazing periods, cut for hay, stockpile, or increase stocking rates. Good managers will focus on providing adequate grazing opportunities for their livestock.

Rotational grazing, strip grazing, and limit grazing are all examples of grazing methods that cause less waste of the forage than the more common practice of continuous grazing. Results of utilizing good grazing



management techniques will help provide more forage during adverse growth periods. The best grazing method will vary from farm to farm, stocking rates, as well as the people involved. Whatever method you choose, make sure it is right for you and your objectives. It is recommended to plant improved varieties when overseeding and modifying pasture forages in order to help maximize available forages.



Here in the Northeast, we are past our prime time for Fall Foliage and most of us are looking back over the year to assess how we fared, and then looking forward to what 2009 will bring. I can say this, CHANGE! We know there will be a political change in our near future no matter which candidate wins the election. We know that how we operated in the past is going to change for a short period of time. And we know that we have weathered these situations before and rebounded! So we should look to the future in a positive way and not let the negativity of others bring us down!

There are some changes on the horizon to our line up of **Wildlife Perfect Seed Mixtures**. We are keeping the four initial mixtures the same since they are performing very well in our marketing areas. Check out our web site at [www.wildlifeproof.com](http://www.wildlifeproof.com) for all the updated testimonials and pictures that have been sent in. Also, if you have pictures of our food plots or videos, please send them to us and we will gladly put them on our web site! The new mixture we are introducing is our **Wildlife Perfect Game Bird Mixture**. We have formulated this mixture to provide a palatable food source and cover for wild game birds. **Wildlife Perfect Game Bird Mixture** consists of white proso millet, forage oats, austrian winter peas, and crimson clover.

White proso millet is a warm season summer annual bunch grass which is quite attractive to wild game birds. The white proso millet is especially useful because of the added benefit that it produces large amounts of seed in a short time frame. The forage oat we selected is a tall and prolific forage oat which is an excellent game forage to attract and hold wildlife. Austrian winter peas are a high quality forage legume similar that is excellent for wild game food plots. Crimson clover has rapid establishment, wide leaves, tillers well and resists lodging. Crimson clover is a good food source for all types of wild game birds.

The two most critical design factors for food plots are location and size. The key to a successful food source is its location next to heavy winter cover that is frequented by pheasants and other upland wildlife game birds. By placing well-designed **Wildlife Perfect Game Bird** food plots adjacent to winter cover significantly improves wild game bird survival and breeding conditions in the spring. Also, close interspersed food plots and woody cover reduces the rate of predation loss because wild game birds do not have to feed in the open or travel between cover and food sources. Hens using food plots are in better

condition and produced more chicks than hens without food plots.

**Wildlife Perfect Game Bird Mixture** is available in a 20 pound bag (1/2 Acre) and 40 pound bag (1 Acre) and is available now for shipping. We at AMPAC Seed look forward to working with you all in any of your needs!

#### ATTRACT the WILD!



In this time of rising prices on just about everything and the always uncertainty of Mother Nature, finding ways to enhance the productivity of turf and forage grasses is a priority for our industry. One way to do that is to give the seedling the best environment possible for establishment. *PowerBoost* is AMPAC's latest contribution focused on giving you the best opportunity to establish a healthy lawn, park, fairway or pasture for your investment.



*PowerBoost* is a valuable moisture management tool. *PowerBoost* coating -- biodegradable, nontoxic and odorless -- is designed to increase germination, survivability and promote early root development. *PowerBoost* works by capturing, storing and releasing water to plants throughout a growing season. This activity prolongs the benefits of rain or irrigation events by creating a healthy microenvironment around the seed holding and releasing moisture as needed. Thus, reducing seedling stress and optimizing plant development. This process is repeated hundreds of times before *PowerBoost* completely breaks down.

Key selling points with your customers for using *PowerBoost*:

- Enhanced Plant Viability
- Faster establishment
- Uniformity of crop development
- Improved yields and quality
- Reduced stress due to heat and drought
- Use less Water
- Biodegradable
- Better plant use of applied nutrients

*PowerBoost* will rehydrate from rainfall or irrigation and continue to store and release water so that water is delivered when it's needed. By optimizing a plant's use of available water, *PowerBoost* helps plants avoid stress caused by heat and drought.

*PowerBoost* coating has the added value of containing micronutrients, free living nitrogen fixing rhizobacteria and fungicides, which work to maximize and promote fast uniform seedling emergence with improved stand establishment of greener more healthy plants

*PowerBoost* is not organic-certified.

We will have samples of coated material available at Kansas City using FrontPage Kentucky Bluegrass and a Turf Mix of coated FrontPage with other raw components.

The process for *PowerBoost* coating requires approximately 30 days prior to shipping. So plan ahead and give your turf or forage a *PowerBoost* to a healthier stand. Check with your local distributor for *PowerBoost* added products and application information.