Animal and Pasture Performance from Tall Fescue with Various Endophytes. (C06-alison162215-Poster)

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Abstract:

Fescue toxicosis has long been a problem associated with the use of tall fescue (Festuca arundinacea Schreb.) but recently cultivars with an associated endophyte that does not result in deleterious effects on animals have been released. A study was established to evaluate the animal performance and adaptation potential for these cultivars in an area where tall fescue is considered marginally adapted. Georgia 5 tall fescue infected with no endophyte, initial wild-type endophyte or MaxQ endophyte and Jesup with MaxQ endophyte were planted in separate paddocks in November 1999. Steers grazing tall fescue with no endophyte or MaxQ endophyte performed similarly and had higher gain rates than steers grazing tall fescue with the initial endophyte during 112-day grazing periods in 2001 and 2002. Stands of tall fescue infected with an endophyte persisted and remained similar throughout and were superior to stands of endophyte-free Georgia 5 by the conclusion of the study. Results indicate persistence of tall fescue should be similar whether MaxQ or the initial endophyte is present but animal performance is improved when MaxQ is included in place of the initial endophyte.

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