Yield, Quality, and Diet Selection of a Smooth Bromegrass and Birdsfoot Trefoil Pasture Mixture. (C06-iwig112636-Poster)

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Abstract:

Legume/grass mixtures affect ruminant animal diet composition and quality of ruminant animals. This study was conducted to determine beef yearling consumption and diet composition of birdsfoot trefoil (BFT) (Lotus corniculatus L.) with various levels of birdsfoot trefoil in smooth bromegrass (SB) (Bromus inermis L.) pastures. In mid May and late June, three replications of paddocks were constructed in areas representing low, medium, and high levels of BFT. Diet samples were collected from ruminally fistulated animals after initial grazing, and with a second set of fistulated animals when about 40% of the forage was utilized. Leaf and stem yields of both BFT and SB were estimated before and after grazing. Leaf and stem quality were determined by evaluating ADF, NDF, and CP. There was a low amount of BFT in the May trials and there were no significant differences in utilization relative to legume level. Utilization of BFT was higher than SB in June. In June, overall utilization of low-density BFT stands was higher than medium-density stands. Yields of BFT and SB generally were inversely related because higher yielding paddocks of SB were very competitive with BFT.

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