

Legume Influence on Forage Production, Forage Quality and Lamb Performance of Semi-Arid Pastures. (C06-koch165325-Poster)

Authors:

- D.W.Koch* - *University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY*
- J.W.Flake - *University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY*

Abstract:

Establishing improved pasture is a major financial and time investment. In order to make sound decisions, producers need information on long-term performance of forage species. Legumes, if compatible, provide several possible benefits in mixtures with grasses. The objective of this grazing study was to determine the effect of three legumes: Spredor II alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*; Remont sainfoin, *Onobrychis viciifolia*; and Monarch cicer milkvetch, *Astragalus cicer*, in comparison to a pure seeding of Bozoisky Russian wildrye, *Psathyrostachys juncea*. Species were planted in December 1990, without irrigation, in a semi-arid climate. Weaned lambs were grazed mid-June to mid-July, starting in 1991 in a 3-paddock system. Adding a legume (particularly alfalfa and sainfoin) increased forage production and quality, improved palatability and lamb gain and reduced year-to-year variation in forage production, compared to Russian wildrye alone.

Corresponding Author Information:

David Koch	phone: 307-766-3242
University of Wyoming	fax: 307-766-5549
Box 3354	e-mail: dwkoch@uwyo.edu
Laramie, WY 82071	

Presentation Information:

Presentation Date: Monday, November 11, 2002

Presentation Time: 4:00-6:00 pm

Poster Board Number: 728

Keywords:

Legume, Grazing, Nutritive value, Pasture

