Bale Grazing VS. No Bale Grazing

Project ID: 2009C
Cooperator: John Reid

Partners:

- Ag Masters Ltd. Sylvan Lake
- Grey Wooded Forage Association

In the winter of 2008/2009, John had bale grazed a pasture (WS) south of field (WN) where the peas and barley were in 2009. During the summer of 2009, John noticed a great difference between the production on the bale grazed areas vs. the surrounding area where the bales had not been placed. John called me up and suggested that we could make a project out of measuring the differences.

I got over there on October 6th and took some yield clips of the bale grazed and areas not bale grazed on. I sent these samples to Parkland Laboratories in Red Deer to compare feed values. That same day, Dwayne Johnson from Ag Masters Ltd., took soil samples of the bale grazed and surrounding areas as well. I've included a portion of each analysis report below. Please keep in mind that these reports are showing the residual nutrients left over after the growing season.

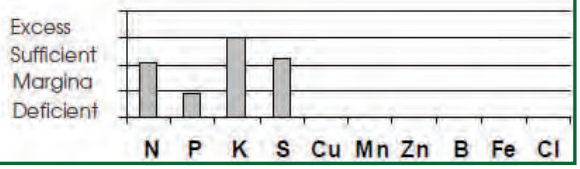
The bale grazed areas had considerably higher production (6,745 lb/ac) with about 3,000 lbs of dry matter more than the surrounding areas (3,783 lb/ac). Bale grazed areas had about 16.5% protein and 65.2% TDN, while surrounding areas had 8.4% protein and 60% TDN.

We would conclude from this that the greater value of bale grazing in this case, is from the nutrients and organic materials left behind, rather than from the marginally reduced costs of feeding by bale grazing.

Bale Grazed - Residual Nutrients at end of growing season

SOIL TEST NUTRIENT LEVELS

Depth (inches)	NO_3-N	P	K	SO_4-S	Cu	Mn	Zn	B	Fe	Cl
	lb/ac				ppm					lb/ac
0-12	82	29	>1080	44						



Not Bale Grazed - Residual Nutrients at end of growing season

SOIL TEST NUTRIENT LEVELS

Depth (inches)	NO_3-N	P	K	SO_4-S	Cu	Mn	Zn	B	Fe	Cl
	lb/ac				ppm					lb/ac
0-12	4	24	934	31