

Pasture Management and Forage Health Survey

Please answer the following questions with the following scale of:

Scale: 1 = Never 2 = Infrequently 3 = Sometimes 4 = Often 5 = Nearly always

1. The following has impacted my enterprise over the past 3 years: (rate each option)

- Excessive rainfall during growing season _____
- Drought during the growing season _____
- Lack of forage management information _____
 - Lack of forage variety options _____
 - Lack of drought-tolerant forage options _____
 - Access to drilling/seeding equipment _____
 - How to scout/diagnose forage problems _____
- Grazing management _____
 - Poor pasture establishment _____
 - Not enough pasture _____
 - Synchronizing forage with grazing needs _____
 - Hay availability _____
 - Weed pressure _____
 - Lack of weed management/herbicide options _____
- Soil health decline _____
 - Lack of soil health management information _____
 - Soil pH management (too acidic/too alkaline) _____
 - Poor soil fertility _____
 - Lack of soil fertility management information _____

2. Which pasture practices do you routinely use? Check off all that pertain to you.

- IFAS recommended livestock stocking rates _____
- Livestock paddock rotations _____
- Animal grazing as weed control _____
- Soil sampling within 3-yr period _____
- Maintain soil pH between 5.5 to 6.5 _____
- Routine fertilizer applications based on recommendations _____
- Graze or hay cool-season, annual forages _____
- Herbicides for weed control _____

3. Pasture decline: For the purposes of this survey is defined as a continual reduction in forage stand density and performance from year to year that is not easily explained by management practices or weather alone.

Have you experienced pasture decline within the past 5 years? Please circle Yes or No:

- YES (if YES, please continue to #4)
- NO (If NO, please continue to #6)

4. How often were the following tools used to address pasture decline? Rate each option

Scale: 1 = Never 2 = Infrequently 3 = Sometimes 4 = Often 5 = Nearly always

- Contacted professionals
 - Extension office/University staff _____
 - Consultant (crop advisor, etc) _____
 - Business (feed/seed, fertilizer supplier, etc) _____
- Forage tissue analysis report _____
- Forage pest and/or disease report _____
- Soil fertility report _____
- Soil health report _____
- Apply lime at recommended rate, if required _____
- Apply fertilizer at recommended rate _____
- Reduced grazing pressure _____
- Use of herbicides for weed control _____
- Apply pesticides/fungicides if needed _____

5. Were you able to solve your pasture decline problem (yes/no)?
6. Where are your pastures located (county only)? If located in multiple counties, list all:
7. Which pasture-related research topics should UF faculty place more focus on?
8. Which pasture-related topics do you want additional training or guidance on?

9. Rate the following factors in terms of it being important to YOUR pasture health

Scale: 1 = Not at all 2 = Somewhat 3 = Moderately 4 = Highly 5 = Critical

- Livestock stocking rate _____
- Livestock rotation _____
- Soil sampling _____
- Applying lime _____
- Applying commercial (mineral) fertilizer _____
- Applying organic (biosolids/manures/litters) _____
- Use of soil conditioners/supplements to support microbes _____
- Applying pesticides to control insects/nematodes _____
- Applying herbicides to control weeds _____
- Using grazing/mowing to control weeds _____
- Reseed weakened areas by broadcasting _____
- Reseed weakened areas by drilling _____
- Incorporating summer legumes _____
- Overseeding with cool-season forages (cover crop) _____

Thank you for your time and responses!

**Please return this survey to Luke Harlow, UF/IFAS Union County Extension
15120 SW 84th St, Lake Butler, FL 32054 or email to harlow1231@ufl.edu**