



MONTHLY TIP

April is when cool-season forage stands should be assessed to define the right strategy for each pasture.

- If more than 70% of the ground is covered with fescue, keep the fertilizer and herbicide program, and consider adding clover next February.
- When the fescue stand covers from 40% to 70% of the ground it is recommended to reseed in mid-September.
- If the fescue stand covers less than 40% of the ground, it is time to start it over. The optimal planting window remains mid-September, however, burn it down 10 to 14 days before drilling in at the full seeding rate.

*Dr. Bruno Pedreira
UT Extension Forage Specialist*



*“You can see present, future, and past with rotation.
That’s neither too slow nor too fast.”*

Jennifer J. Tucker - Forage Quotes & Concepts

FORAGE MANAGEMENT: LIME! WHY?

Dr. Bruno Pedreira, UT Extension Forage Specialist

If the soil pH is low, the nutrient availability to the plants will be limited. Some of the nutrients will be strongly held by the soil particles that plants will not be able to uptake them. Thus, by applying lime, soil pH will be increased, and nutrients will be more plant available. Before spending a few hundred dollars on a ton of P₂O₅ or Potash, soil pH needs to be in the range of 6 to 7 for most of the cool- and warm-season grasses. If a legume pasture (such as alfalfa), or a clover-grass mixture is the target, soil pH should be elevated to above 6.5. Legumes are more sensitive to soil pH and will benefit from a higher soil pH. In last month’s Live.Stock Companion, I already mentioned, “to increase soil pH, lime should be applied as soon as possible as it takes months to a year to react in the soil.” It is also important to mention that in the UT soil test report, the lime recommendation is made assuming a Relative Neutralization Value (RNV) of 65%. For instance, if the recommendation is 2 tons/acre with a 65% RNV, but you are buying a 50% RNV, you will need to apply 2.6 tons/acre.

CATTLE NUTRITION: FIRST-CALF HEIFERS

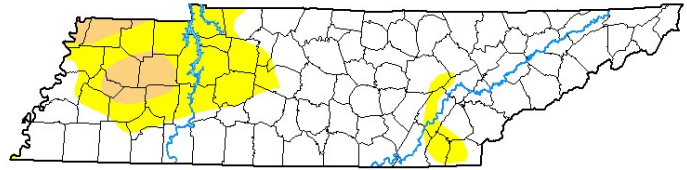
Dr. Katie Mason, UT Extension Beef Cattle Nutrition Specialist

The first-calf heifer is different. She is different from mature cows and from replacement heifers, earning a spot in a category all her own. The reason for this is that the first-calf heifer is not at her mature body weight quite yet. Heifers are typically developed to reach about 60% of their mature body weight at breeding. By the time she calves, she is only about 85–90% of her mature body weight. Once the calf hits the ground, the first-calf heifer’s energy is devoted, first, to meeting requirements for survival, and second, lactation. If those needs are met and there is excess energy is available in the diet, she will devote that energy to growth and finally, reproduction. If the first calf-heifer is receiving a diet that meets the needs of the mature cow herd, she is likely coming up short on energy. If that’s the case, it will take her longer to begin to cycle and be ready for rebreeding. Design a feeding strategy that favors the nutrient requirements of the first-calf heifer to ensure that all of her needs are met and to set her up for a successful second pregnancy.

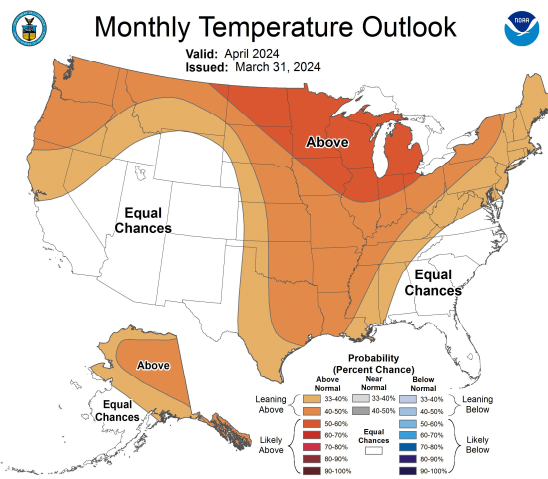
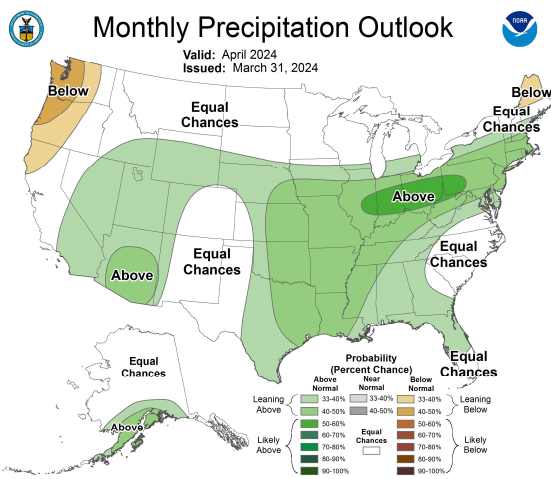
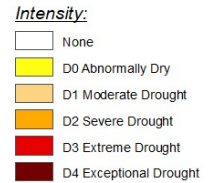
WEATHER

Dr. Bruno Pedreira, UT Extension Forage Specialist

In March, the average temperature and precipitation for the state of Tennessee were +4.6°F and -1.15” departing from the last 10-year average, which is 50.7°F and 5.73”, respectively. ncei.noaa.gov



For April, temperatures and precipitation are leaning towards above average in Middle and East TN, although West TN is predicted to be “likely above”. Drought monitor (April 9) is showing fewer counties in need of moisture than in March. The West TN is still struggling but none of the counties are under severe drought (D2) anymore. Row-crop planting season is here and some rain would be very welcome. The monthly drought outlook is predicting a better scenario for April, although Humphreys, Benton, Carroll, Gibson, and Crockett area is still classified as "drought removal likely" in West TN. droughtmonitor.unl.edu



UPCOMING EVENTS- UTBEEF.COM

- [Live.Stock](#)- Join us for our live stream May 8^h, 2024 at 2 pm ET
- [Southeast Tennessee Beef Summit](#) April 26th, 2024 at 8 am ET



Photo of the Month by Derrick Corbin - Nitrogen effect on Annual Ryegrass Trial, UTIA Plateau AgResearch and Education Center, Crossville, TN.

This and other useful information can be found at your local UT Extension office, or on our website.

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