



Making Impacts with the Annual Hay Field Day

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The Northeast Florida Beef and Forage Group is a multi-county collaboration of Extension Agents representing Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Clay, Columbia, Duval, Madison, Nassau, Suwannee, and Union counties, in addition to Extension Specialists at the University of Florida. A major goal of this program is to coordinate Extension and Research activities for enhanced forage and cattle production in North Florida. Programs are designed and planned based on recommendations from an Advisory Committee.

One program that has had success is the Annual Hay Field Day. This field day is rotated each year throughout Northeast Florida. For the past 10 years this field day has averaged 85 participants per year. Topics at the field day have included: forage establishment, forage quality, herbicide updates, pesticide updates, forage yields, haylage production, soil testing, and equipment demonstrations.

Based on evaluations from the field day and post visits with the producers the following outcomes have been achieved. Fifty-percent of those in attendance understand the importance of estimating dry-matter forage availability in pastures and plan to use a simple method that was taught to assist producer in determining forage dry-matter availability. In addition, sixty-four percent of hay producers plan to make changes to their fertilization program as a result of having a better understanding of the economic returns resulting from recommended rates of N, P and K in bermudagrass. This Annual Hay Field Day has proved to be



Fig. 1. Agents and producers discuss hay quality and harvest times at the Annual Hay Field Day in Lake City, FL.

a successful Extension educational program, with agent presentations, specialist interaction and participation, research plots, and equipment demonstrations.