Creating Consistent Systems
Grass

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EASY Forage Systems

* EASY
  * E = Environmental
  * A = Agronomic
  * S = Simple
  * Y = Yours
Easy Forage Systems
Environmental

* Does your management fit the terrain?
* Does your forage selection meet your needs?
* Leave it better than you found it!
eAsy Forage Systems

Agronomic

- Physiological state
  - Leaf stage
  - Optimize yield and quality
- Grazing residual
  - Optimize yield and quality
- Legumes/complimentary species
- Yield
  - Adequate fed cow
Doubling your forage species increases your headaches!

Figure out how much Tylenol you can stand to meet your yield objectives.
easyY Forage Systems
Yours
**Creating Consistent Systems Courses for Horses**

* Things to Consider?
  * Climate
    * Continental or Temperate
  * Soil Type and Terrain
  * % of intake pasture goal?
  * Single or Multi-species to meet your intake goal
  * Risk management
Creating Consistent Systems
Courses for Horses

* Temperate - single species
  * Season 300-365 days
  * Yield 6-7 ton/ac.
  * Meets cow’s needs?

* Continental - multi-species
  * 210-270 days
  * Permanent forage - 3.5 to 4 tons/ac.
  * Double cropped annuals - 6 to 8 tons/ac.
  * 50-50 yields 4.75 to 6 tons/ac.
  * Meets cow’s needs?
Summary

* Operators of successful dairy production systems:

1. Develop goals pertaining to what they expect to accomplish with the dairy enterprise
2. Develop further goals pertaining to what they expect the forage to accomplish within the overall system
3. Take deliberate measures to plant the mix to accomplish these goals
4. Utilize pasture as an economical method of supplying some percentage of herd nutritional requirements
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