



SISKIYOU STOCKMAN

What's New in the "Top of the State". A report for Siskiyou Livestock Producers put out by the Farm Advisors Office, Cooperative Extension of the University of California, located at 1655 South Main Street, Yreka, California 96097

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Calendar

Nov. 2	Siskiyou Cattlemen's Annual Fall Dinner, Winema Hall, Yreka
Nov. 20-22	Annual California Cattlemen's Association Meeting, Sacramento.
Dec 11 - 13	Western Alfalfa and Forage Conference, Reno, Nevada
Jan 2003	Special Feeder Sale, Cottonwood, CA

Dryland Triticale and Triticale Seed Cost

Our work with triticale has focused on irrigated triticale, but growers have also reported success with triticale under dryland conditions, especially in the Shasta Valley of Siskiyou County. On dryland sites in Shasta Valley with a long history of dryland grain crops for hay, triticale has been observed to yield 25 to 100 percent higher than traditional wheat, barley or oats for hay. When the triticale is cut at soft dough or less mature stages, quality has been comparable to other grain hays with good acceptance by cattle. For dryland grain hay growers, triticale may be a good alternative.

Production practices for dryland grain hay are acceptable for dryland triticale production. For the Shasta Valley, planting would occur in October or November. Typically a pre-plant nitrogen fertilizer should be used. Pre-plant nitrogen applications of 60 pounds of nitrogen per acre (285 pounds of ammonium sulfate per acre) should be adequate. In years with normal or above normal precipitation and above average predicted spring rainfall, an additional nitrogen application in February or March would likely be profitable. With favorable conditions, a spring grazing could possibly occur. This should be in early April with a short duration high intensity grazing. The cattle should get in and out, with delays and repeated grazing into later April or May avoided. Late grazing will significantly decrease hay yield. Cattle should be removed while there is ample soil moisture to grow a hay

crop. In general under dryland conditions, it is less risky to skip the grazing to ensure that a high yielding hay crop covers the input costs.

Cost of triticale seed.

Growers will find triticale seed costs more than wheat or barley seed, often 8 to 10 cents per pound more. Frequently dryland grain-hay growers want to keep input costs as low as possible and are concerned about seed costs.

Should the cost of seed be a major concern or does potential yield outweigh the importance of seed cost? The table below answers that question. It shows the required additional hay to cover the increased cost of triticale seed over wheat or barley seed. Two examples are provided; one with hay valued at \$80 per ton and the other at \$60 per ton. A variety of seed costs are shown. Using \$80 per ton hay, a 75-pound seeding rate, triticale seed cost of \$0.28 per pound and wheat at \$0.16 per pound, the increased production per acre

to cover the additional seed cost would be 225 pounds, less than 2 additional bales per acre. When hay is lower value a larger increase is needed to cover the extra seed cost. Using \$60 per ton hay, an additional 300 pounds per acre is needed to cover the seed cost, just slightly over 2 bales more per acre. Growers report triticale will generally produce about 25 percent or more grain hay than wheat or barley on dryland. Of course, actual yields will vary from site to site and especially by year due to variable rainfall and spring frosts. Even if triticale seed cost \$0.36 and wheat only \$0.10 the yield increase would only have to be 488 pounds or less than 0.25 tons/acre. This difference is often easily achievable. This is not intended as encouragement for seed dealers to raise triticale prices — but for producers to recognize how little increase in yield is needed to justify slightly higher seed costs.

Table 1. Increased production of triticale hay in pounds per acre required to cover the higher cost of triticale seed. Tables are based on a seeding rate of 75 pounds per acre and hay at **\$80 per ton (top) or \$60 per ton (bottom).**

Wheat		Triticale Seed Cost								
Seed Cost	\$0.16	\$0.18	\$0.22	\$0.24	\$0.26	\$0.28	\$0.30	\$0.32	\$0.34	\$0.36
\$0.10	113	150	225	263	300	338	375	413	450	488
\$0.12	75	113	188	225	263	300	338	375	413	450
\$0.16	0	38	113	150	188	225	263	300	338	375
\$0.18			75	113	150	188	225	263	300	338
\$0.20		\$80/ton hay	38	75	113	150	188	225	263	300
\$0.22			0	38	75	113	150	188	225	263
\$0.24				0	38	75	113	150	188	225
\$0.26					0	38	75	113	150	188
\$0.28						0	37	75	113	150
\$0.30								37	75	113

Wheat		Triticale Seed Cost								
Seed Cost	\$0.16	\$0.18	\$0.22	\$0.24	\$0.26	\$0.28	\$0.30	\$0.32	\$0.34	\$0.36
\$0.10	150	200	300	350	400	450	500	550	600	650
\$0.12	100	150	250	300	350	400	450	500	550	600
\$0.16	0	50	150	200	250	300	350	400	450	500
\$0.18		0	100	150	200	250	300	350	400	450
\$0.20		\$60/ton hay	50	100	150	200	250	300	350	400
\$0.22			0	50	100	150	200	250	300	350
\$0.24				0	50	100	150	200	250	300
\$0.26					0	50	100	150	200	250
\$0.28						0	50	100	150	200
\$0.30							0	50	100	150

Growers will want to get the best buy possible for seed, but these examples show that the additional cost of triticale seed should be overcome by the increased production. Hay harvest is recommended from flowering to soft dough at the latest. Protein levels will decline with advancing maturity but yields increase dramatically. In some cases, lower quality dryland hay with higher yield (due to delayed harvest) may take better advantage of soil moisture. Once the crop is harvested, remaining soil moisture would not be used for crop production. The lower quality hay could be fed with higher quality hay to satisfy nutritional requirements of various classes of cattle. Getting the most production possible from non-irrigated fields is one way to compensate for potentially reduced water for irrigation during the summer.

Brand Inspectors

Rob Jochim (pronounced “yo-come”) joins Toni Herman as brand inspectors for the Siskiyou County area. Jochim has been working since mid-September and covers the Scott and Shasta valleys plus Klamath River area. Toni covers the Butte Valley and Tulalake area, and was kept very busy trying to cover the whole area until Rob was hired. Numbers to reach Toni or Rob are:

Toni Herman 530/667-4611 Office
530/540-4776 Pager

Rob Jochim 530/475-3047
530/604-5308 Cell & Voicemail

Western Alfalfa and Forage Conference

Hay growers and cattlemen will be interested in the joint Western Alfalfa and California Alfalfa symposium. Forages will be a big part of the symposium this year. See <http://alfalfa.ucdavis.edu> for further details.

Rice Straw Still Works

The extreme drought of last year found local cattle feeders using rice straw more than ever. Hay supplies and forage are improved this year, but rice straw can still work in some cases. Rice straw due to its low nutritive value works best for cattle with low nutritional requirements. Dry cows, low milking cows and cattle that can receive both rice straw and higher quality feeds are likely candidates for a rice straw diet.

A survey of rice straw used in the county last year found protein levels that varied from 4.7 to 7 percent. In other areas some rice straw protein levels tested at 2.5 percent, which makes the straw of little or no value to cattle. Due to the large variation in rice straw quality, the single biggest suggestion or recommendation is to test it before you buy it. There is a huge difference between 2.5 percent protein straw and 7 percent straw, and you can't tell by looking.

When purchasing rice straw also recognize that it is often sold by the bale and “one ton” bales don't weigh 2000 pounds when they are rice straw. Know the quality and quantity of what you are buying, and preferably before you have it sitting on your place.

For further information on rice straw see a recent article on *Feeding Rice Straw to Cattle* at <http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu/pdf/8079.pdf>

Special Feeder Sale

Once again as a special effort to increase marketing opportunities, the Siskiyou County Cattlemen's Association and the Shasta Livestock Auction Yard are having a special sale in early January 2003 for Siskiyou County cattle. Contact the auction yard or any local Cattlemen's director for consignments.

This is your copy of the Siskiyou Stockman, which you requested, or which we thought would be of interest to you.

Sincerely,



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