

# Bermudagrass (*Cynodon dactylon*) Grassland Project Plan Update 2006

Submitted by Ray Cragar

Plots in Taylor County and Mineral County were evaluated in June, 2006 and again in September for percent composition, vigor, and forage production.

The site in Mineral County had a heavy thatch build-up from last year's growth so the manager was advised in June to turn cattle in to graze and trample to remove some of the overstory. Positive results from this treatment were observed during the September evaluation; the stands seemed to have spread and covered the seven plots, resulting with the commercial varieties or experimental accessions of bermudagrass in each plot becoming the dominant species.

The Taylor County plots are struggling to survive, much less spread and be competitive. Cattle were turned in after the June evaluation to control some of the weeds. This treatment seemed to have a positive effect in that the overstory was reduced and sunlight was allowed to penetrate, thus giving what bermudagrass existed an opportunity to at least maintain its foothold.



The bottomland site in Mineral County is far-and-away the most promising; therefore, evaluation results from that site only are included in this report.

Grass	plot composition (estimate)	tons/acre (estimate)		
'Quickstand'	22.5%	1.3		
'Riata'	87.5%	1.6		
JE-III	95%	1.1		

KF-777	87.5%	1.1		
'KF-194'	95%	1.1		
'Wrangler'	92.5%	1.1		
KF-000	92.5%	1.2		

Only September results used here since this is based upon growth post-grazing, July through September – plot composition ascertained by visual estimation; production determined using a falling plate meter/pasture stick.

These results are inconclusive as to making a selection and/or recommendation of any particular variety/accession for MLRA 127, 147. So far stand development and production are promising but the real test will come after a dose of extremely cold, persistent winter weather.

For more information, contact [Ray Cragar](#), Grassland Specialist at the [Philippi-East Area Office](#).

Previous updates are at: [http://www.wv.nrcs.usda.gov/news/05feb\\_nv/grass.html](http://www.wv.nrcs.usda.gov/news/05feb_nv/grass.html) and [http://www.wv.nrcs.usda.gov/news/06aug\\_nv/grass.html](http://www.wv.nrcs.usda.gov/news/06aug_nv/grass.html).