FESCUE EMT

Fescue Facts

Since the Kentucky-31 variety of tall fescue was introduced to the United States in the 1930s, cattle producers grazing the forage have dealt with negative consequences on gains and reproduction.

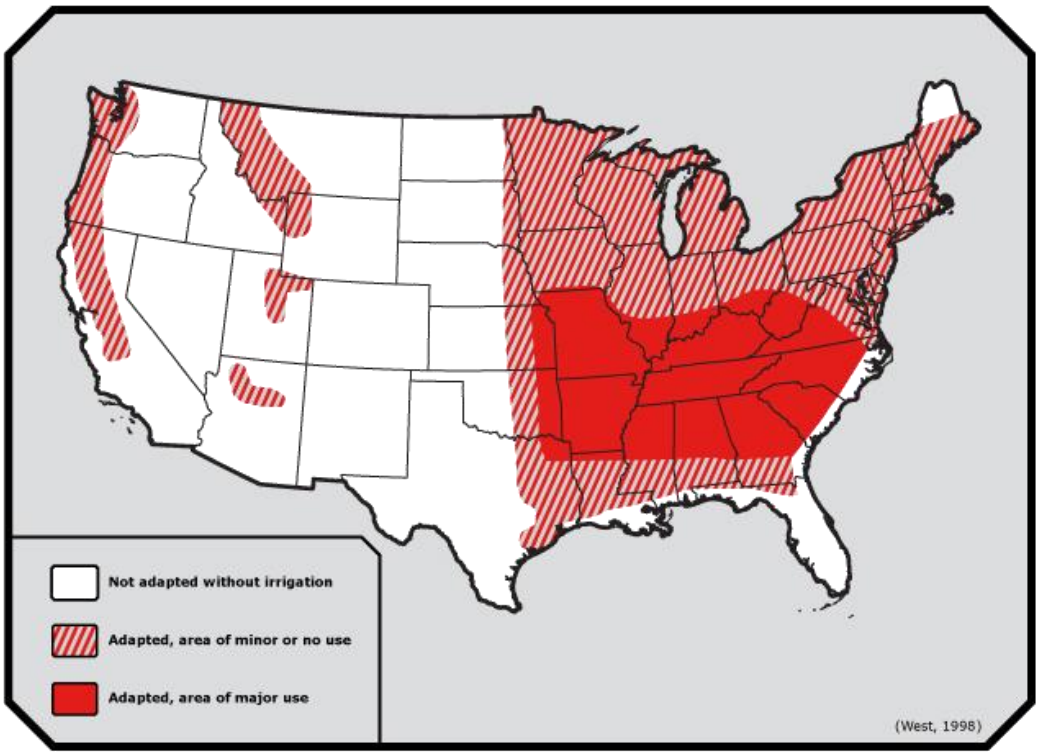
Did you know?

1) Problems in cattle grazing fescue were first documented in the **1950s**[1].

2) The U.S. beef industry loses **more than $600 million**[2] annually due to the impact of fescue toxicosis on cattle gain and reproductive performance.

3) Tall fescue is the primary forage in **more than 35 million**[3] **acres** of hay and pastureland in the U.S.

Zone of adaptation and use of tall fescue in the United States



4) Tall fescue is the **most widely-used cool season grass**[4] in the southeastern U.S.

5) **Over 90 percent**[5] of fescue is estimated to be infected with the endophyte that leads to fescue toxicosis.

FESCUE EMT

Fescue Facts

6) Fescue endophyte has been shown to reduce weight gain by **more than 50 percent**[6] in steers on pasture.

7) **Agalactia** – the reduced ability to produce milk – **is exacerbated**[7] in cows that graze tall fescue during the last trimester of gestation.

8) **Fescue foot** is one of the most severe consequences of fescue toxicosis[8] and refers to a condition in which cattle become lame, sometimes losing hooves, ears and tails.

9) **26 percent**[9] of cattle in the U.S. are estimated to be exposed to endophyte-infected fescue.

10) The **seed heads**[10] of tall fescue are the most toxic components of the plant.

Sources

[1,5,8]Browning, R., Jr., Ph.D. (2003). Tall Fescue Endophyte Toxicosis in Beef Cattle: Clinical Mode of Action and Potential Mitigation through Cattle Genetics. Retrieved from http://web.extension.illinois.edu/oardc/downloads/43363.pdf

[2]Hoveland, C. S. (1993). Importance and Economic Significance of the Acermonium Endophytes to Performance of Animals and Grass Plant. Retrieved from https://www.researchgate.net/publication/223360012_Importance_and_Economic_Significance_of_the_Acermonium_Endophytes_to_Performance_of_Animals_and_Grass_Plant

[3]Smith, S. R., Hall, J. B., Johnson, G. D., & Peterson, P. R. (2009). Making the Most of Tall Fescue in Virginia. Retrieved from https://pubs.ext.vt.edu/418/418-050/418-050.html

[4]Paterson, J., Forcherio, C., Larson, B., Samford, M., & Kerley, M. (2014). The effects of fescue toxicosis on beef cattle productivity. Retrieved from https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Monty_Kerley/publication/15591167_The_effects_of_fescue_toxicosis_on_beef_cattle_productivity/links/53da61c00cf2a19eee884d1d.pdf

[6,7]Roberts, C. (2000). Tall Fescue Toxicosis. Retrieved from http://extension.missouri.edu/p/G4669

[9]Bussard, J. R., & Aiken, G. E. (2013). Number of Beef Cows Exposed to Toxic Tall Fescue: Small or Large? Retrieved from http://www.afgc.org/proceedings/2013/09.pdf

[10]Arnold, M., Gaskill, C., & Smith, R. (2014). Fescue Toxicosis. Retrieved from https://www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage/ID221%20Fescue%20Toxicosis.pdf