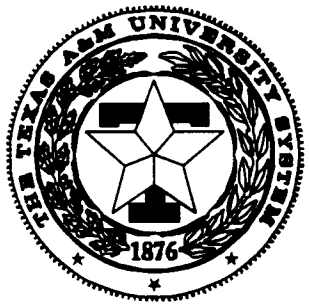
FORAGE-LIVESTOCK FIELD DAY REPORT - 1998

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH and EXTENSION CENTER at OVERTON

Texas Agricultural Experiment Station
Texas Agricultural Extension Service



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WHEAT FORAGE YIELDS AT OVERTON FOR 1996-97 AND TWO-YEAR MEANS

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Background. Wheat is an important winter annual forage crop in most of the wheat growing region of Texas. Varieties vary in total yield and distribution of forage and resistance to disease. A study is conducted each year at the TAMU Agricultural Research and Extension Center at Overton to identify the best forage wheat varieties for East Texas. Before purchasing seed, growers should be aware of the forage yield and distribution potential of wheat varieties which may be available in their area.

Research Findings. Several available commercial wheat varieties and experimental lines were evaluated during the past 2 years. Fertilizer application rates and dates are noted on Table 1. Tests were planted into a prepared seedbed one inch deep at a seeding rate of 110 lb/ac. Planting dates were early September normally, however, in 1996 the planting date was 9 September. Plot size was 4 x 12 ft, with four replications. Plots were harvested on only three dates with a Hege plot harvester at a cutting height of 2 inches. An outbreak of greenbugs and also leaf rust reduced and limited fall forage production in 1996. Wheat forage was approximately 8 inches tall during the first harvest on February 25. The varieties demonstrating more rapid winter growth were FLA 302 and FLA 302. The second harvest date was 25 March indicating good spring growth. Coker 9134 produced the highest yield, followed by several other entries. On the third and final harvest on 16 April, experimental TX87-57 produced the highest yield followed by Jackson, Pioneer 2548, closely followed by several other entires. The highest total season forage yields were produced by TX87-57, Coker 9134, Pioneer 2548 followed closely by several other entries. For the two year mean (seasonal) yields, TAM 301 had the highest mean yield, however, Jackson, FLA 302 and Madison also preformed quite well. No winterkill occurred on small grains at Overton in 1996-97. However, wheat is significantly more winterhardy than oats. Differences in yield between varieties of less than the LSD (note under each column) may be due to experimental error and may not be significant.

Application. The data presented should be useful in selecting varieties for forage production for your farm. Depending on variety availability, compare forage yields and seed prices to determine which variety you want to plant. If the wheat may be harvested for grain, grain yields, agronomic characteristics, and disease ratings of these varieties can be found elsewhere in this field day report.

Table 1. Wheat forage variety at Overton, Texas for 1996-97 and mean yield over 2 years.

Variety	Harvest 1 2-25	Harvest 2 3-25	Harvest 3 4-16	Total DMY	2-Year Mean
	pounds of dry matter per acre				
TX87-57*	494	813	2058	3365	---[a]
Coker 9134	634	1075	1216	2925	---
Pioneer 2548	450	845	1486	2781	---
TX18NT*	386	789	1312	2487	---
Jackson	318	537	1610	2465	2874
Clemens	465	752	1230	2447	---
TX84-19-2H*	414	740	1279	2433	---
Sawyer	371	725	1264	2360	---
TX92D8102*	621	875	758	2254	---
Coker 9024	510	863	829	2202	---
FLA 302	1192	602	229	2023	2427
Madison	712	579	720	2011	2200
Pioneer 2571	251	548	1210	2009	---
TX92D7741*	358	771	859	1988	---
TAM 301	479	663	771	1913	3125
Pioneer 2566	617	746	535	1898	---
TX86-6*	376	699	767	1842	---
Jaypee	689	654	421	1764	---
FLA 304	801	606	339	1746	2210
HBB362-2*	648	638	409	1695	---
TX84-126-2	290	618	715	1623	---
TX 85-232-1	236	519	869	1624	---
Mean	514	712	949	2175	---
LSD (0.10)	405	221	350	495	---

Planted September 9, 1996. Fertilization: Preplant 500 lb 10-20-20/ac. Topdressed with 50 lb N/ac on October 18, 1996, 50 lb N/ac on January 15, 1997, 300 lb/ac of KMG (22% K_2O, 11% Mg, and 23% sulfate) on February 10, 50 lb N/ac on February 17, and 25 lb N/ac on March 26.

Herbicide: Glean was applied at the two leaf stage at a rate of 0.3 oz/ac.

*Experimental line, seed not available to farms.

[a]Entry not tested over the last 2 years.