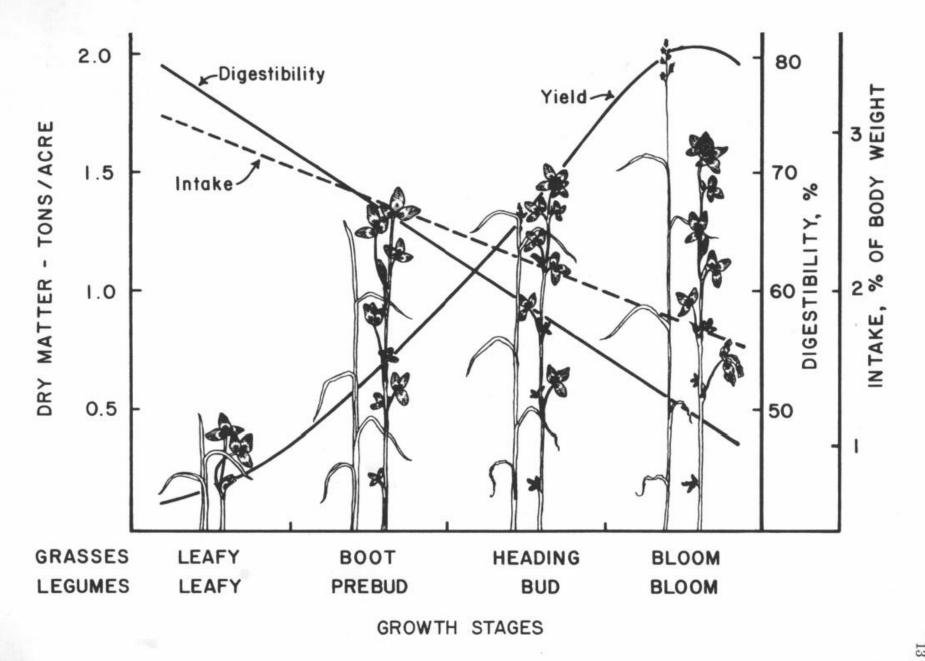
# Summer forage management

Re-

Gabriel Pent, Ph.D. Shenandoah Valley AREC

> McCormick Farm Virginia Tech

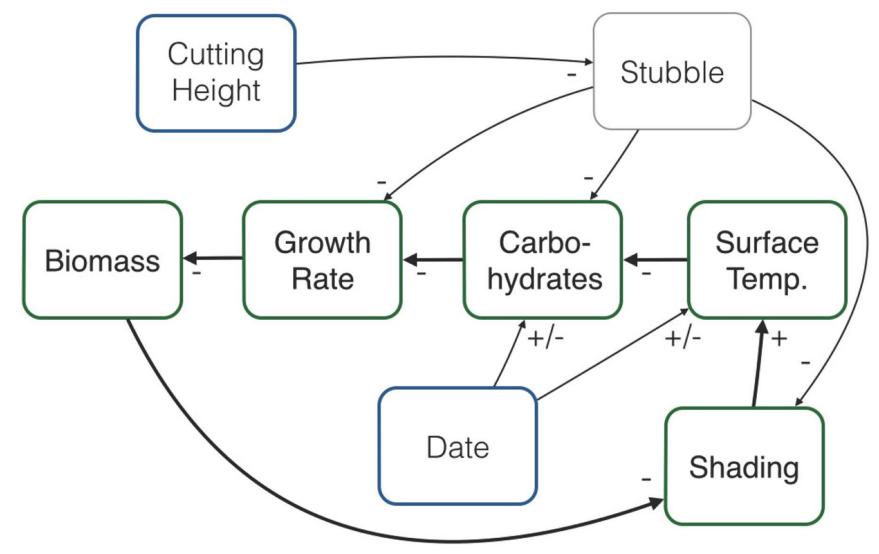
VIRGINIA AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION SHENANDOAH VALLEY AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER



Blaser et al. 1986. Forage-animal management systems. VAES 86:7.

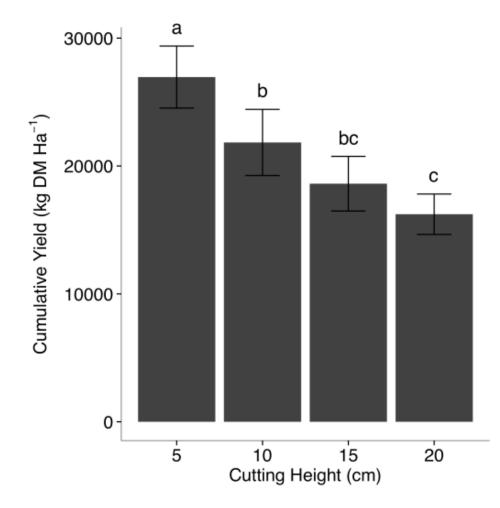


#### Reduced cutting height increases stress



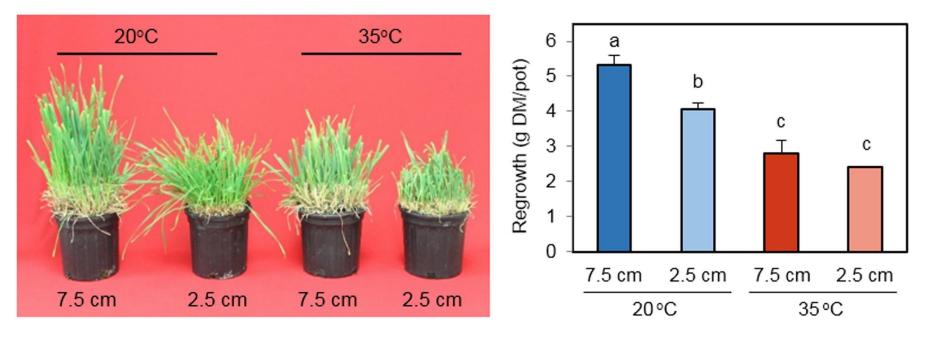
Jones & Tracy. 2015. Orchardgrass die-off. Crops and Soils 48:3.

## Effect of cutting height on yield



Jones. 2016. Persistence and productivity of orchardgrass (*Dactylis glomerata* L.) hay stands. Dissertation. Virginia Tech.

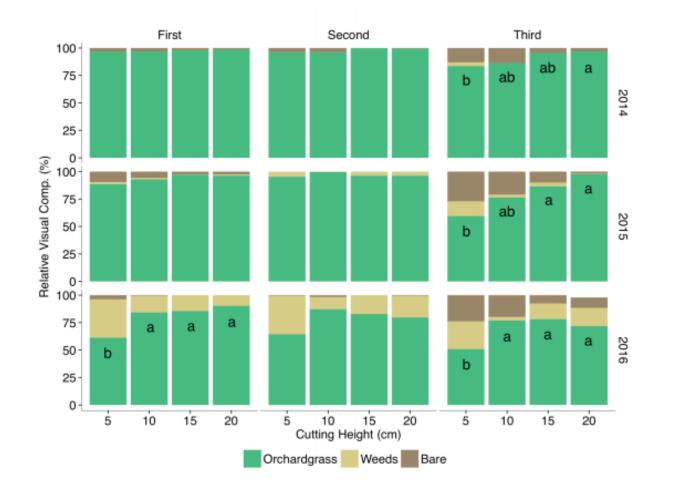
## Effect of cutting height on regrowth



- 11 days after defoliation
  - 7.5 cm = 3"
  - 2.5 cm = 1"

Jones et al. 2017. Physiological effect of cutting height and high temperature on regrowth vigor in orchardgrass. *Frontiers in Plant Science* 8:805.

## Effect of cutting height on persistence



Jones. 2016. Persistence and productivity of orchardgrass (*Dactylis glomerata* L.) hay stands. Dissertation. Virginia Tech.

## Thinking ahead – summer slump



## Summer stockpiling

- Defer grazing on selected pastures: spring green-up to fall
- Utilize while fall-stockpiling



## Summer stockpiled tall fescue

Study	TDN	СР	Forage availability
	%		lb/ac
Booher, Benner, & Fiske. 2017. VCE CSES-201NP.	60	11.3	6840
Langford. 2020. Virginia Tech thesis.	>62	>9.8	5350-7140



## Summer annuals

Photo: Stephan Wildeus

## When do annuals make sense?

• When seed is discounted



## When do annuals make sense?

- When seed is discounted
- During the pasture renovation process

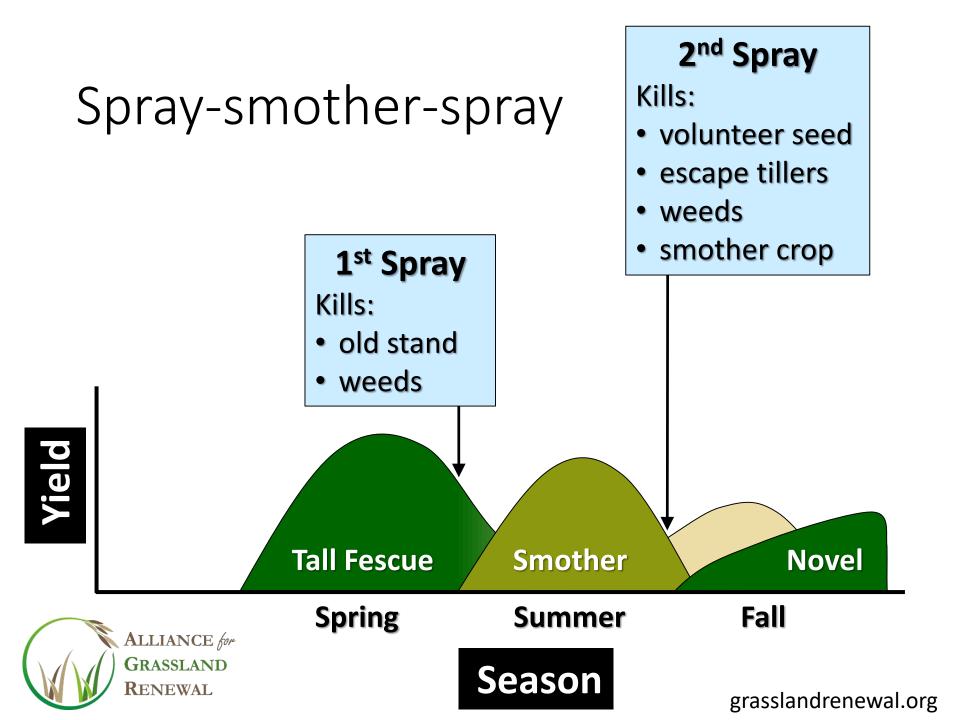


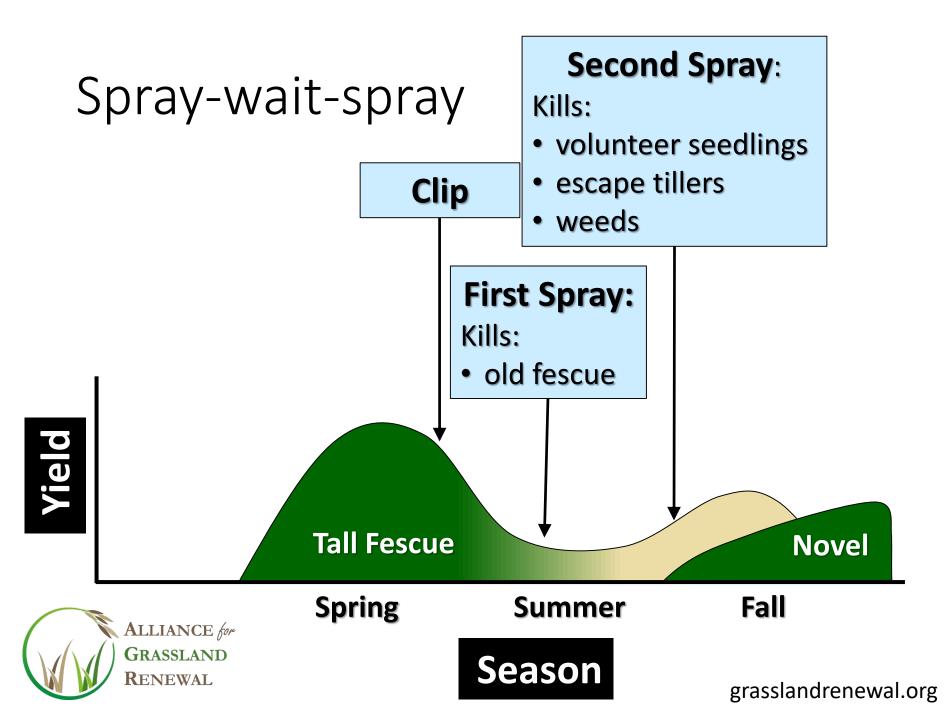
## When do annuals make sense?

- When seed is discounted
- During the pasture renovation process
- When high quality or emergency feed is needed



## Evaluating hayfields and pastures





#### Clipping pastures

Pinkeye control? No evidence

- Weed control? Takes repeated mowing
- Improve nutritive value? Useful for some
- Aesthetics? Depends on the beholder

Pent. 2020. Clipping pastures. The Virginia Forager 40:1.