

**Survey of AFGC's Producer, Private, and Public Sectors to Determine the Economic Importance of Forage Related Management Practices**

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**RESULTS FROM PRODUCER, PRIVATE, AND PUBLIC SECTORS COMBINED**

**Table3. Ranking of forage related management practices as to their potential to affect economic efficiency. Participants were asked to rate practices as follows: 2 = improvement in net farm income >10%, 1= Slight positive impact, 0=no positive or negative impact, -1=Slight negative impact, -2=reduction in net farm income >10%.**

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Practice</b>	<b>Avg. Rating</b>	<b>Standard error</b>
1	Soil testing	1.58	0.20
2	Extending grazing season/ feeding less hay	1.57	0.24
3	Correcting soil pH (e.g., lime)	1.42	0.26
4	Rotational stocking (med. Rest, 1-2 moves/wk)	1.37	0.28
5	Better establishment techniques or tools	1.30	0.23
6	Confining breeding season to align parturition with forage quantity/quality	1.26	0.30
7	Better hay storage methods ( e.g., barn, baleage, tarp)	1.26	0.34
8	Stockpiling forage for later grazing	1.25	0.32
9	Testing hay or baleage for forage quality	1.20	0.28
10	Adding improved clover varieties	1.18	0.32
11	Fall fertilization of pastures/hayfields	1.14	0.30
12	Improved weed control	1.13	0.30
13	Increasing the use of summer annual forages	1.05	0.29
14	Increasing the use of winter annual forages	1.02	0.33
15	Adaptive, multipaddock grazing ( med. Rest, 1-2 moves/day)	0.97	0.37
16	Supplementing low quality hay	0.93	0.40
17	More soil fertilization	0.88	0.36
18	Using complex mixes of forages species (>4)	0.80	0.38
19	Regularly renovating/reestablishing forage stands	0.75	0.39
20	Conserving forage as baleage instead of hay	0.68	0.37
21	Using waste, byproduct, or alternative fertilizer	0.65	0.37
22	Conversion to novel endophyte tall fescue	0.63	0.44
23	Improved insect management	0.59	0.35
24	Buying in hay/ baleage instead of making own	0.51	0.41
25	Using native species	0.32	0.45
26	"Mob" stocking (long rest, 2+ moves/day)	0.26	0.44
27	Breeding livestock on tall fescue in the fall	0.23	0.42
28	Using specialty, foliar fertilizers, and/or humates	0.09	0.37
29	Irrigating pastures and/or hayfields	0.04	0.39
30	Conversion to "natural" or "organic" standard	-0.04	0.47
31	Using an aerator on pastures and/or hayfields	-0.04	0.36
32	Less soil fertilization	-0.59	0.43