

Pastures & Rangeland to feed Goats Year-round



A landscape photograph of a Texas rangeland. The foreground is filled with dark, scrubby bushes and several large, dark, rounded rocks. In the middle ground, there is a vast expanse of dry, yellowish-brown grass and sparse green shrubs. In the far distance, a low, rounded hill or mesa is visible against a horizon line. The sky is filled with large, white, fluffy clouds, with patches of blue sky visible between them.

**Cultivated pastures
complement our Texas
rangelands**

Pasture alone is challenging



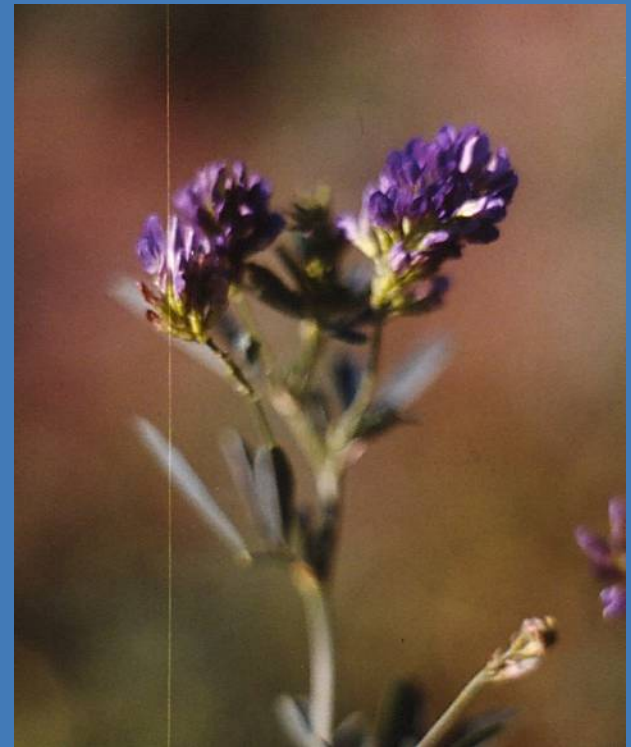
Two very distinct growing seasons in central Texas:

- Cool season
- Warm season



Cool Season Legumes

- Self-reseeding annuals
- Alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*)
 - Low persistence
 - Cotton root rot
 - Irrigation



Clovers

Late winter Production

- Crimson clover
- Arrowleaf clover
- Rose clover



Medics

- Burr
- Little burr
- Black
- Button



Vetches

Low palatability

Late season reproduction

- Hairy vetch
- Common vetch



Cool-season Legume Management

- Plant early fall if cultivated soil
- Over-seeded on bermudagrass later
- Avoid N fertilizer if mixed with grasses
- Rest in late spring to self-reseed



Cool-season Legume N Contribution

lbs N/acre/year

Ball Clover

88

Vetches

89-111

Medics

111-131

Crimson clover

138

Cool-season Grasses

- Small grains
 - Triticale
 - Wheat
 - Barley
- Annual ryegrass
 - Self-reseeding
- Bloat block



Warm-season cultivated forages

- Limited by rainfall
- Focus on forbs for protein
- No perennials (yet) but some annuals

Cowpea

(*Vigna*

ungiculata)





Lablab (*Lablab purpureus*)

Productive

Good Nutritive value

Ray Smith

Pigweed



Commercially available warm-season perennial legumes

Illinois bundleflower

Purple prairie clover

White prairie clover





June



August

Warm-season Grasses

- Perennials
 - Bermudagrass
 - Bunchgrasses
- Annuals
 - Sorghum
 - Millet
 - Sorghum-Sudan
 - Crabgrass



Forbs (non-legumes)

- Herbaceous
- Diverse
- Best and worse





Snapdragon



Lespedeza stuevei

Tall bush-clover

Neptunia lutea

Mimosa

Yellow puff



Preserve your rangeland

- Avoid spraying out forbs
- Turn off that bulldozer
- Manage it like a pasture
 - Rotate
 - Avoid over-grazing
 - Avoid over-stocking
- Control burn periodically



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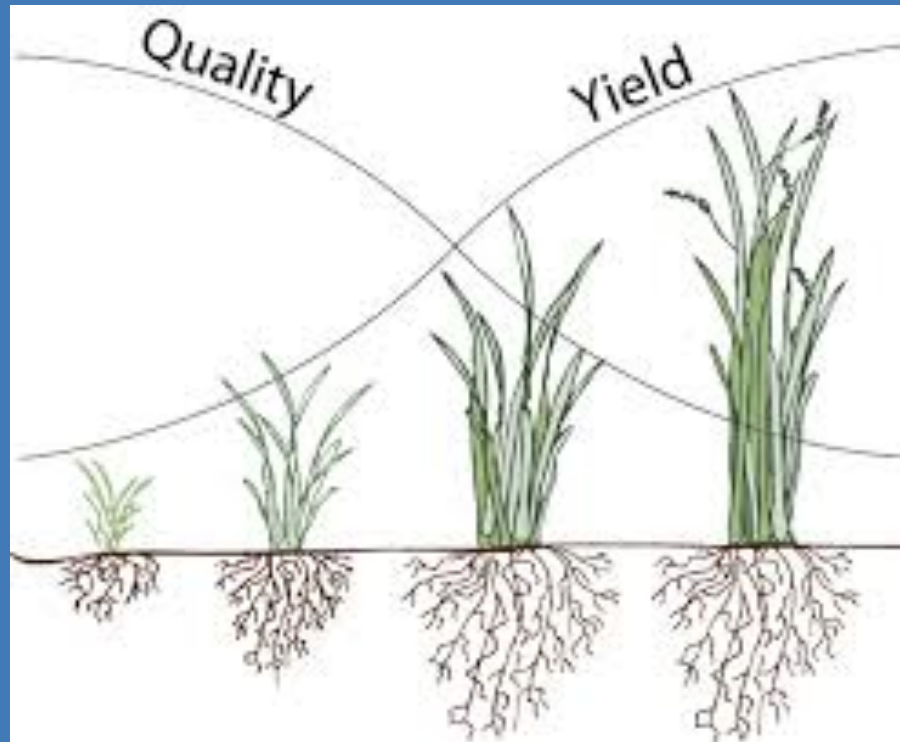
Mimosa

Yellow puff



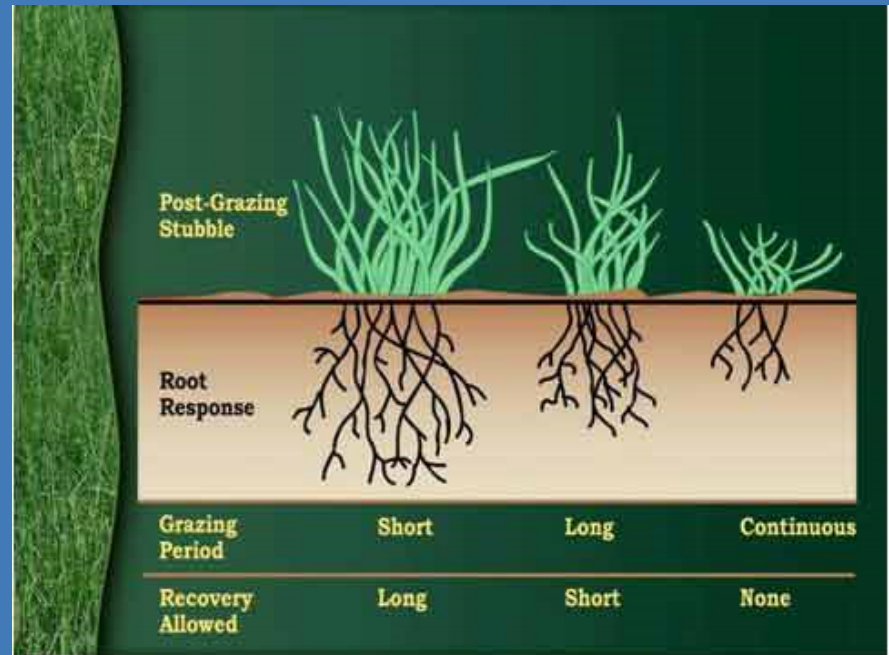
When to harvest?

- Balance quantity with quality



Understand biology

- Harvest herbage without killing plant
- Cyclical: harvest periodically
- Resting pasture



Year-round cultivated pasture

- Summer perennials
- Winter annuals



Year-round cultivated pasture

- Winter and summer paddocks?
- Different paddocks or over-seeding?



Take-home messages

- Understand your goats
- Save your rangeland
 - Throw away the sprayer
 - Sell the bulldozer
- Manage for GIN
- Winter vs. summer
- Manage browse & forbs rather than goats

