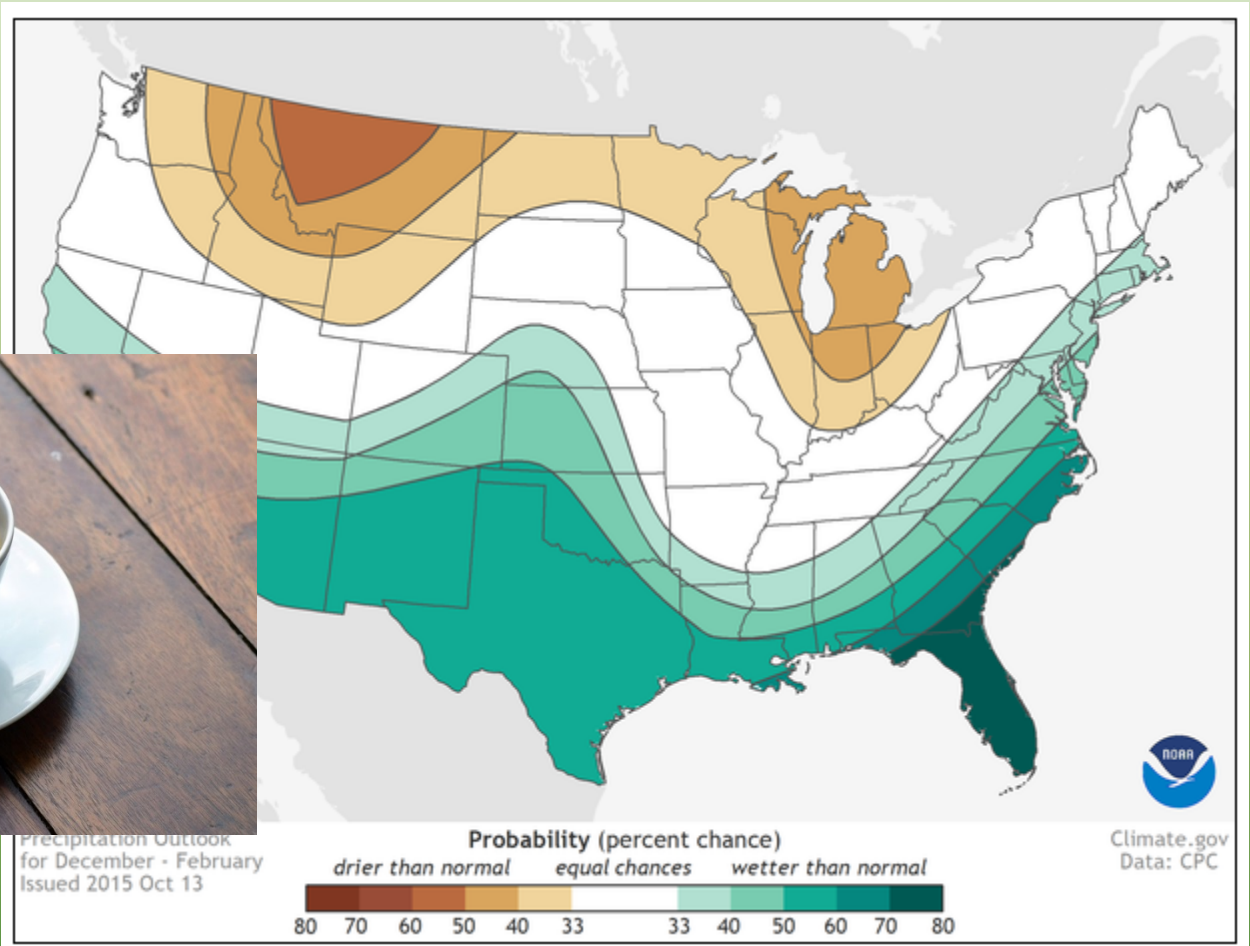


Winter Feeding Strategies

Victor Shelton

Indiana NRCS State Agronomist/Grazing Specialist





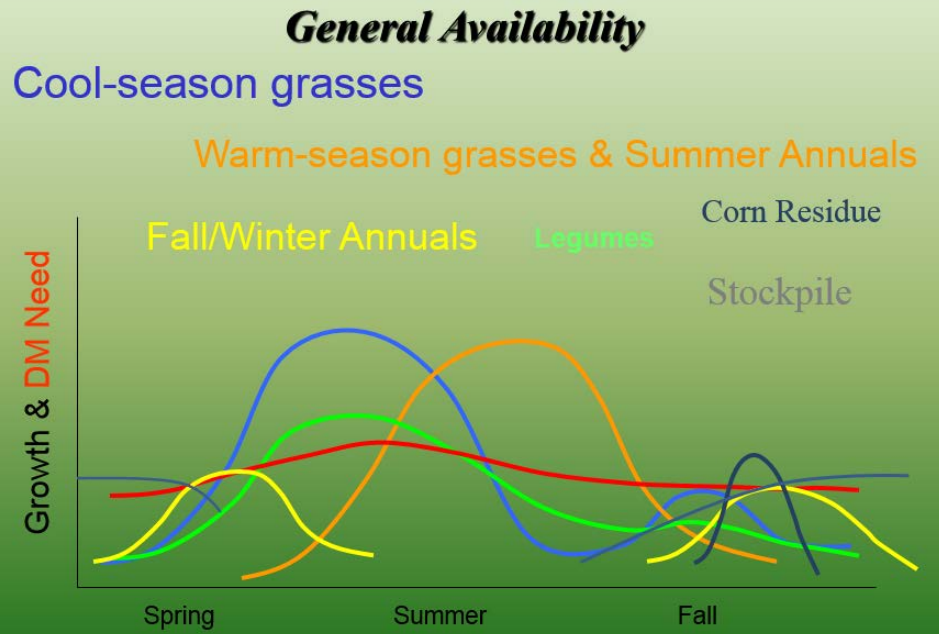
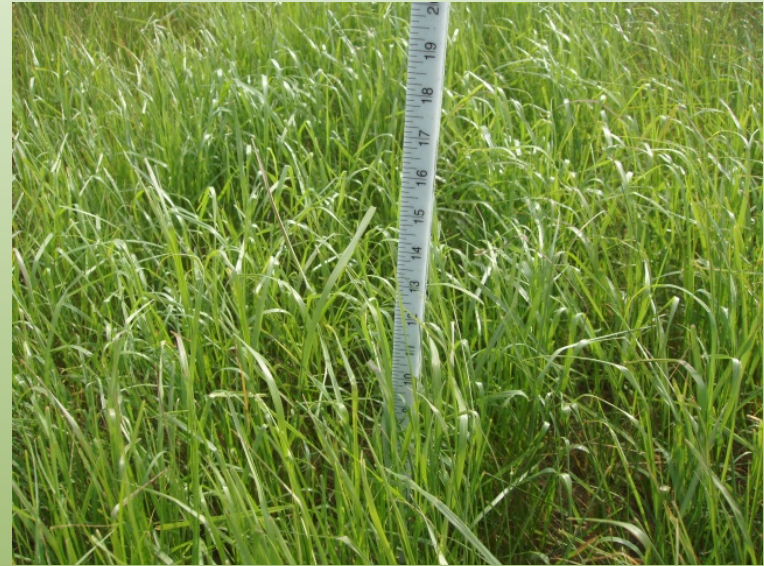
>60% of Total Annual Cow Cost is Feed Cost

- 35, 1100 pound cows = 38,500 pounds live weight
- 12 calves kept back @ 550 pounds
- 1 Bull @ 1775 pounds

Totals about 46,875 pounds live weight

With calf growth = 48,075 pounds

~3% DM intake = 1,442 pounds per day





**Any kind of pasture can be
stockpiled**

**..... Some species are
better than others**



Best utilization and control is achieved
by strip grazing



Strip grazing





**Stockpiled tall fescue may yield
from 2000 – 8000 lb/acre**

**Protein content 16-18% at
beginning of winter**

*Available
Water*

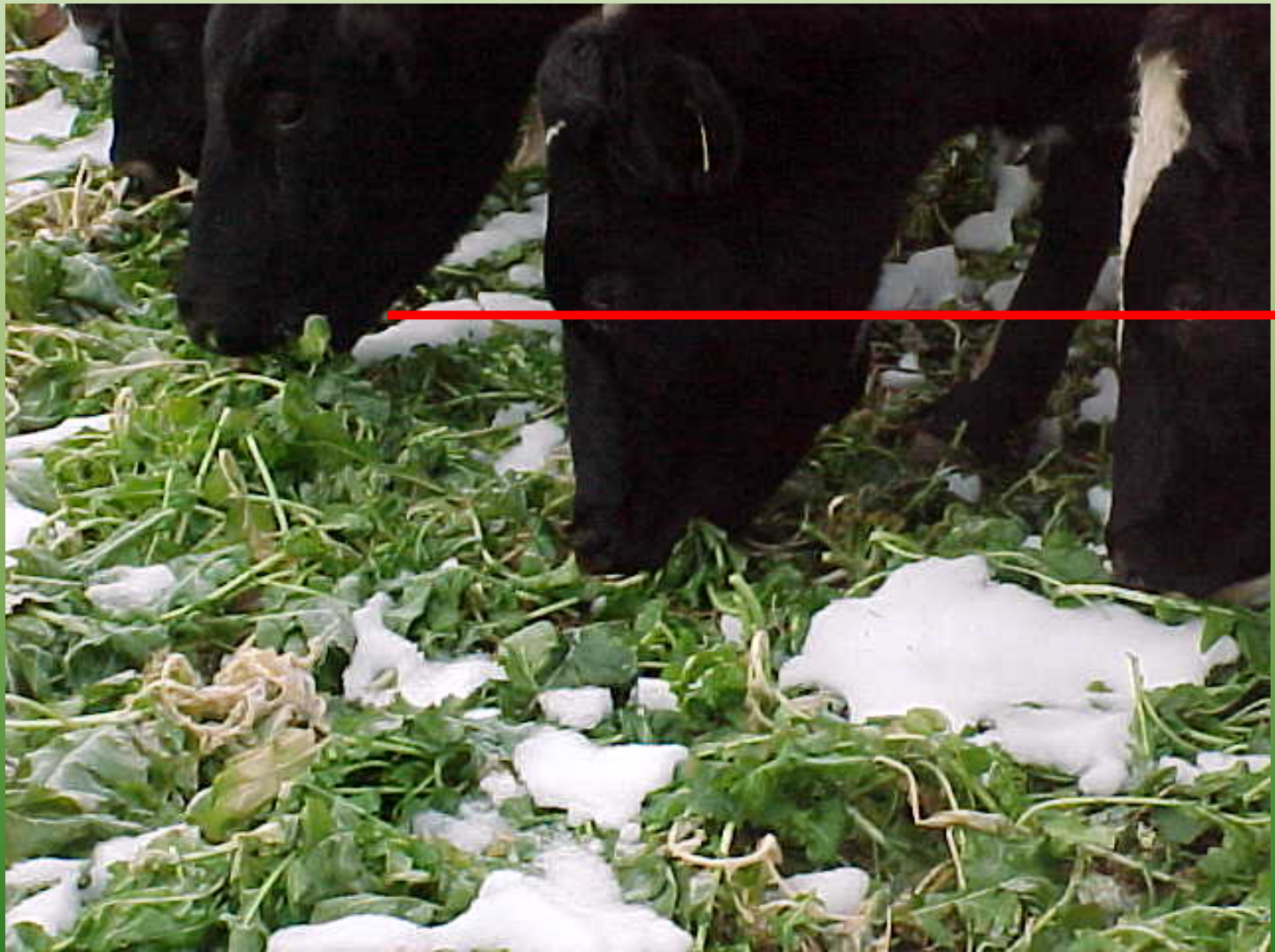
**Usually stays above 10%
for duration of winter**



Snow and Ice







Growth, Time & Allocation



Winter feed costs are the single largest cost in most livestock operations!











MUD CUTS PERFORMANCE

- Muddy animals ----> ↑ stress
- Mud ---> ↑ energy requirements
- Mud ---> ↓ intake
- Mud ---> ↑ disease
- Mud ---> a problem for nearly every beef producer



Greg Brann photo

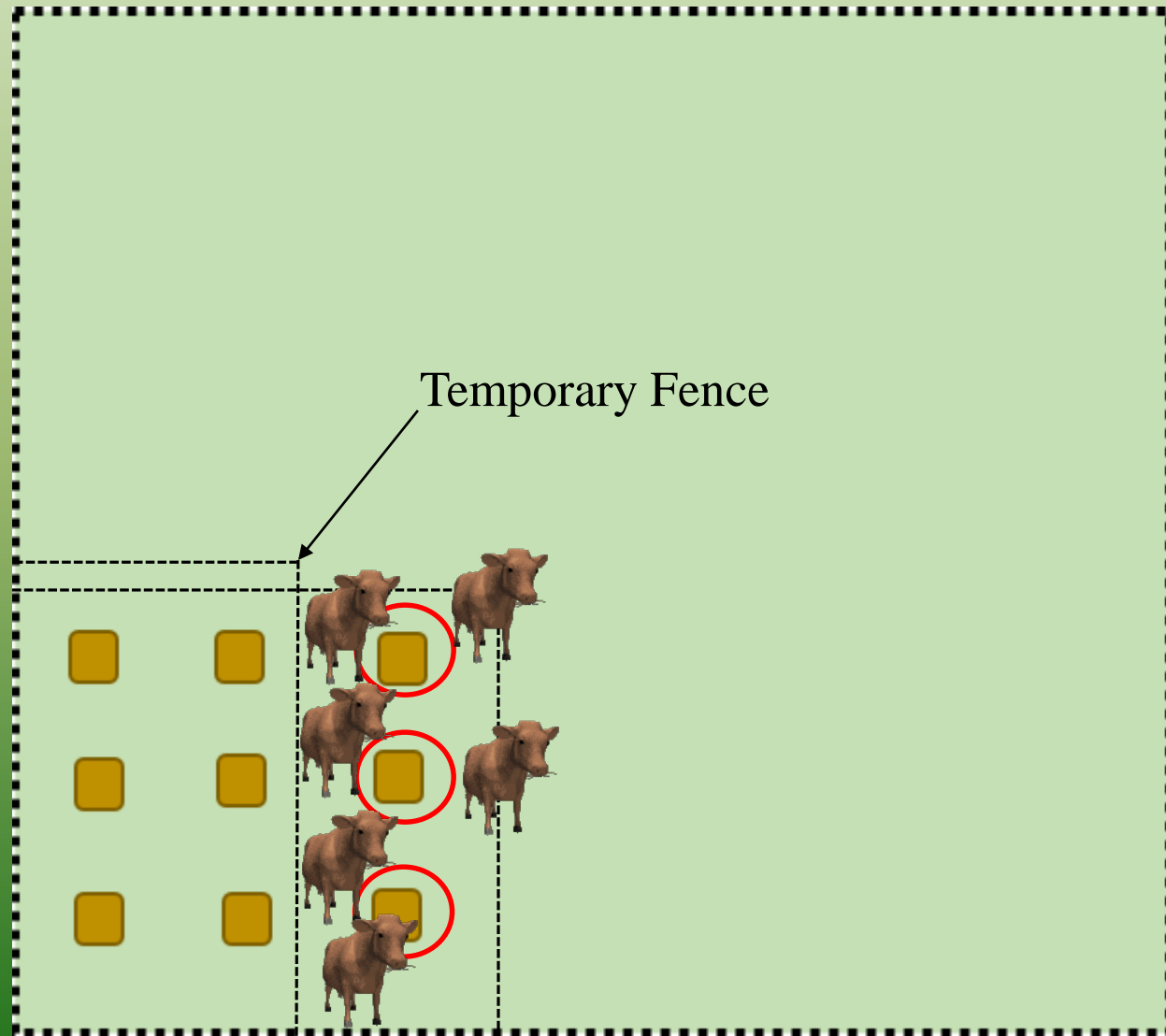




Greg Brann photo



Bale Grazing















Oats/a brassica/cereal rye







Management of Grazing CC's

- **Don't** graze under wet conditions
- **Don't** graze until adequate growth is available
 - **Maintain** adequate residual for regrowth



Management of Grazing CC's

- **Don't** leave livestock in one spot for multiple days
- **Don't** feed livestock in the field





Winter Water



Graze every day that
you can...

Every day
spent grazing
is money
Saved !



Winter Strategies

- Inventory what you have and will have available and know how much you will need
- Take advantage of any potential growth and allow enough rest to accumulate it
 - Feed hay early if needed to get more growth
- Be flexible and think ahead of what will be grazed or fed next
- Reduce livestock numbers if needed
 - Old cows, out of sync cows, or inefficient cows
 - Poor keepers, lower BCS animals
- Allocate out forage, stockpile, and hay in smaller allocations to increase efficiency

Helping People Help the Land
USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



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