



## **1997 - 1998 Small Grain Forage Trial**

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A dryland small grain forage trial was initiated at the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station at Bushland, TX in the Fall of 1997. Twenty-six varieties of wheat, triticale, and rye were planted on September 9, 1997. Soil moisture was good at planting due to the field being fallowed the previous year. All varieties were planted at 45 lbs seed/Acre. Ogallala wheat was planted at an additional seeding rate of 90 lbs/Acre. Each variety was replicated four times. Forage was harvested by hand clipping a one meter square area from each plot. Forage was collected from the same place in each plot on each clipping date.

At the first clipping in November, top yielding wheat varieties were 2137, Jagger, Scout, TAM 110, TAM 202, and Triumph. With Ogallala, forage yield was increased over 800 lbs when seeding rate was increased to 90 lb/Ac. It is likely that forage production would have increased with all varieties at a higher seeding rate. Elbon rye produced over twice as much forage as Maton rye. Of the triticales the experimental 430 variety produced over 2,000 lbs of forage compared to only 456 lbs for Jenkins.

In November, at the second clipping, the forage yield was similar among most varieties between 1500 and 2,000 lbs. Varieties that produced somewhat more forage were TRT 2000, Jenkins triticale, Maton rye, and Scout wheat. Due to the mild winter, the wheat varieties produced more forage than would generally be expected. Usually rye will produce more forage during the winter months than the other small grains.

At the last clipping date in April the condition of the varieties was excellent due to exceptionally good precipitation during the winter. Top forage producers were TAM 105, TAM 110, Elbon rye, and Jenkins triticale.

Unfortunately we were unable to collect forage in May. Generally triticale is an excellent late season forage producer. Maton and Elbon Rye forage yield would have likely been down since these varieties were already heading in early April.

When examining the total amount of forage produced the top wheat varieties were 2137, Pecos, Scout, TAM 110, and Triumph 64. Elbon rye was the top producing small grain yielding a total of 9,316 lbs/Ac. This was closely followed by the experimental triticale 430. It should be noted that it is very unusual for Elbon rye to out produce Maton rye.