

Hay Outlook and Reducing Hay Feeding Losses

Dr. Dennis Hancock

Forage Extension Specialist



THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Colleges of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences & Family and Consumer Sciences

Hay Acreage and Stocks

- ▶ **May 1 Hay Stocks (USDA-NASS: Georgia)**

- ▶ 2009 238 (1000 tons)
- ▶ 2010 210 (-11.8%)
- ▶ 2011 188 (-10.5%)

- ▶ **Hay Acreage Estimates (USDA-NASS: Georgia)**

- ▶ For 2011 ↓12%
 - ▶ Out of production
 - ▶ Competing Crops



DM Losses – Hay & Baleage

Losses	Hay					
	<u>No cover/ On ground</u>		<u>Under Roof</u>		<u>Baleage</u>	
	Range	Avg.	Range	Avg.	Range	Avg.
	---- (%) ----				---- (%) ----	
Harvest	8-39	15	8-39	15	3-10	5
Storage	5-50	20	2-10	5	3-40	8
Feeding	3.5-25	10	3.5-15	5	3.5-10	5
Cumulative	25-77	39	25-77	23	9-51	12



Value of Forage Losses

Harvest System	Anticipated Losses[†]	Cost of Production (\$/ton of DM)			
		\$80	\$100	\$120	\$140
<i>Value of Losses (\$/ton)</i>					
Hay, No cover/ On ground	39%	\$31.20	\$39.00	\$46.80	\$54.60
Hay, Under Roof	23%	\$18.40	\$23.00	\$27.60	\$32.20
Baleage	12%	\$9.60	\$12.00	\$14.40	\$16.80



Feeding Losses

System/Type	<u>Waste</u>
	---- (%) ----
Cone Ring Feeder	2 – 5 ⁺⁺
Steel (Plastic?) Ring	4 – 7 ⁺⁺
Unrolled on Ground	5 – 45 ⁺⁺
Trailer	10 – 13 ⁺⁺
Bale Cradle	15 – 20 ⁺⁺

