

Soil Testing for Better Pasture Management

Hundreds of cattle and horse ranchers from South Florida to the panhandle have been receiving education from the University of Florida extension agents at the county level on best management practices for nutrient management of pastures and hay fields. Over 70% of producers surveyed have indicated that they will use soil testing to determine fertilizer rates for their pastures. They have come to realize through these educational opportunities that under fertilization can cause poor yields, lower stocking rates and perhaps weak plant stands that are prone to erosion. They also have learned that over fertilization besides costing money can negatively impact ground water and surface water resources.