

Baseline Research Reporting - July 6, 2023

You may recall that we have one major Research project using both FFGT (Don Rockwood) and IFAS and which we have named the Key project as we expect it to unlock important understanding in how the plants grow and what to expect in production. Our first reporting data from Don Rockwood is attached as Forms A4 and A5 along with my Analysis. We will learn a lot and we want to bring you, our Members, along with us on this journey.

The Key project utilizes 4 farms: Fatout Farm, Merrick 27, MFA and Hi Hat. Thank you to the farm owners for participating in this project and allowing us to report on your farm's data.

In each farm plots of specific plants are established, measured/inventoried, and marked with tape. Culms that are produced during the season are identified (they don't have yellow tape on them) and recorded monthly as Production. By the end of the season we should know the production in each farm.

When you look at the A4 form (inventoried past season culms) and A5 form (new season production), if you're like me you wonder, What does this mean?. My analysis is fairly simple but helps you to see where we are going. It shows the makeup of each farm as a way to understand its relative maturity as we expect this will determine its productivity. Then we (for now) extrapolate production in pounds of shoots based on the remaining months of the season. Each month our data will enable us to forecast the production more accurately. Note that when you look at the analysis, the initial new production was what was noted as new culms and shoots on June 8-11. Hi Hat Ranch had not really kicked off its new growth yet so its production forecasts will certainly improve in the months to come.

I know some of you will actually look at the reports and wonder what Basal Area is. This is Don's metric and it reflects the surface area of the base of the culms and adds that up so we can see it per acre. This is similar to getting the average culm diameter and multiplying it by the number of culms (but better). I agree that it will be a good relative number to gauge productivity.

Feel free to come back with your questions.