

# Shelf Life on Bahiagrass Stockpile

Shaney Hill, J. Daniel Rivera, Kenny J. Simon, Kyla Neal, Ken Coffey, Harley D. Warren, and Jonathan O.C. Kubesch

**Introduction:** Warm-season stockpiled bermudagrass or bahiagrass can be used in October through November in Arkansas. Newer bahiagrass varieties have an enhanced growing season that may be able to remain of higher quality for longer periods.

## Objectives:

1. Identify the off-season stockpiling potential of newer bahiagrass varieties.
2. Identify if bahiagrass or bermudagrass stockpiles have longer shelf lives into the fall utilization period.

## Methods and Materials:

### Seed Sources

- ‘Pensacola’ bahiagrass
- ‘UF-Riata’ bahiagrass
- ‘TifQuik’ bahiagrass
- Common bermudagrass

### Study Location and Planting

- Southwest Research Station and Extension Center (SWREC), Hope, Arkansas
- Planted April 28th, 2025
- All plots got 50 N lb acre<sup>-1</sup> on Aug 19th

### Experimental Design

- Best Management Practice (BMP)
  - Soil pH, N, P, and K adjusted to soil test recommendations
  - P and K applied at planting
  - N applied in early July

All plots harvested on August 19<sup>th</sup>

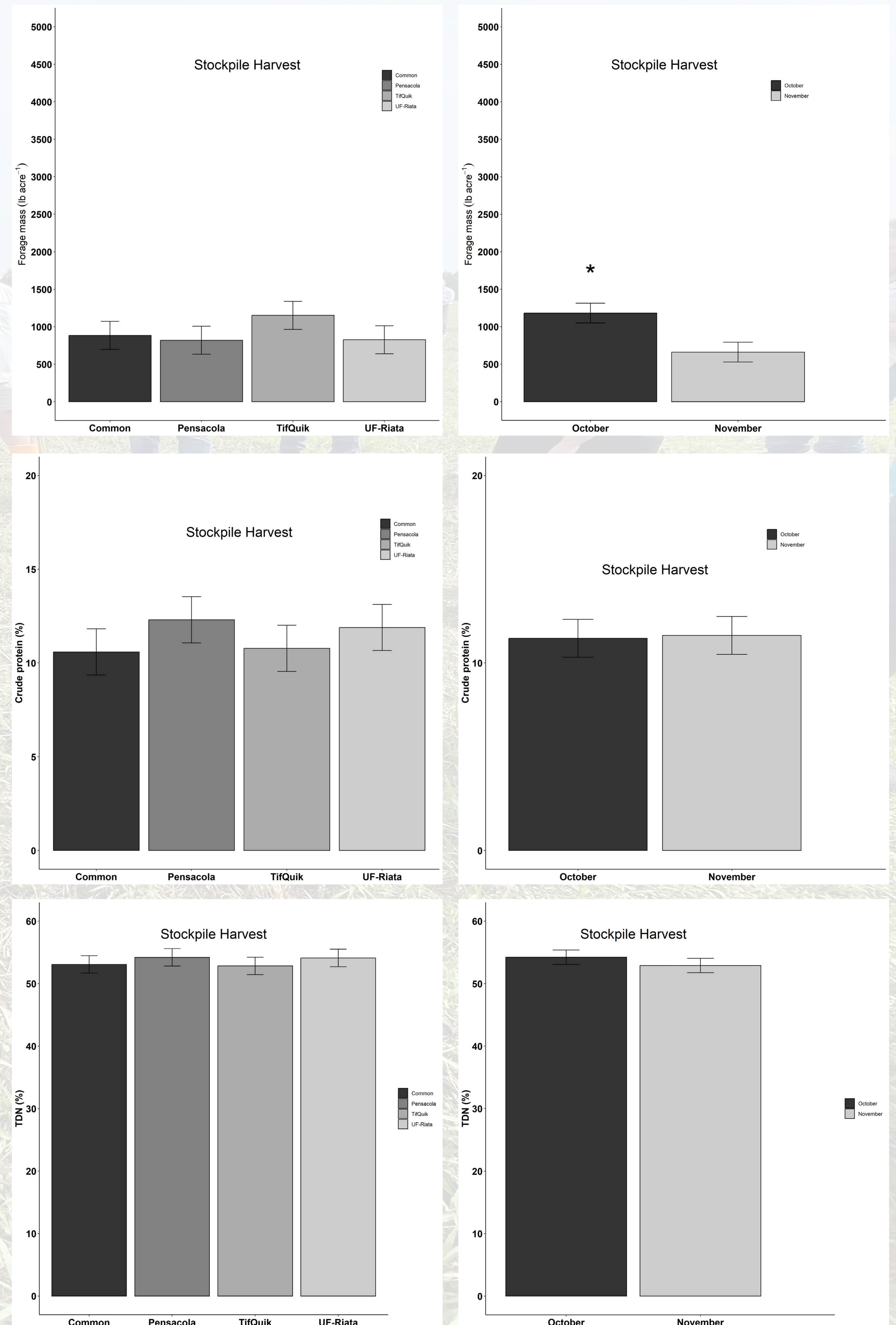
Plots either harvested on October 23<sup>rd</sup> or on November 18<sup>th</sup>

## Results and Discussion:

- No differences among plots in the August initiation harvest
- October plots had more forage mass than November, as we would expect for a warm-season perennial stockpile
- No differences in quality were seen, though nutritive value looked promising for cow-calf systems.

## Conclusion:

- Warm-season perennial stockpiling can be an option in the establishment year but needs to be used in October before intake becomes limiting.



Means are plotted ± 2 SE. An asterisk denotes statistical significance