

November 20th the ryegrass was approximately 22-24 inches tall; with a crude protein of 18.3 and a TDN of 69. On this date 40 head of beef cattle turned into the field, they grazed the field for five days and then removed. The field was then left alone until the spring of 2005.

In the spring of 2005 fertilizer was applied according to soil test results. In late May samples were taken to calculate total dry matter production The ryegrass had produced 5663 pounds of dry matter per acre. The ryegrass was harvested in June and round baled as dry hay. Due to wet weather conditions the ryegrass was past maturity when it was cut, but the nutritional values were still good, crude protein of 12.6 a TDN of 65.

This test planting shows that marshall ryegrass is very useful in this area. It grew very fast, produced good quality forage, and produced almost three ton of dry matter per acre. If you would like further information about this test planting contact the USDA office in Gassaway, 364-5103 ext. 110.

