

ALABAMA, 2023  
 FESCUE ESTABLISHMENT (NOVEL ENDOPHYTE)\*  
 ESTIMATED ANNUAL COSTS PER ACRE  
 FOLLOWING RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

ITEM	UNIT	QUANTITY	PRICE OR COST/UNIT	TOTAL PER ACRE	YOUR FARM
<b>1. VARIABLE COSTS</b>					
SOIL TEST	ACRE	1.00	1.00	1.00	_____
SEED	LBS.	15.00	4.00	60.00	_____
FERTILIZER					
NITROGEN	LBS.	80.00	0.86	68.80	_____
PHOSPHATE	LBS.	50.00	0.56	28.00	_____
POTASH	LBS.	50.00	0.44	22.00	_____
LIME	TONS	1.00	60.00	60.00	_____
HERBICIDE*	ACRE	2.00	10.00	20.00	_____
LABOR	HOUR	6.19	14.00	86.63	_____
LAND RENT	ACRE	1.00	0.00	0.00	_____
TRACTORS & EQUIPMENT	ACRE	1.00	27.21	27.21	_____
INTEREST ON OP. CAP.	DOL.	186.82	0.0800	14.95	_____
<b>TOTAL VARIABLE COST</b>				<b>388.58</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>2. FIXED COSTS</b>					
TRACTOR & EQUIPMENT	ACRE	1.00	27.74	27.74	_____
GENERAL OVERHEAD	DOL.	388.58	0.07	27.20	_____
<b>TOTAL FIXED COSTS</b>				<b>54.94</b>	
<b>3. TOTAL COSTS OF ALL SPECIFIED EXPENSES</b>				<b>443.52</b>	

FERTILIZER RATES USED (80-50-50) BASED ON MEDIUM LEVEL OF SOIL FERTILITY.  
 FERTILIZER AND LIME COSTS REFLECT CUSTOM SPREADING.

\* Note: The conversion of existing "endophyte infected fescue, such as Kentucky 31" tall fescue pasture to a "novel endophyte" (non-toxic, friendly) tall fescue pasture will require at least 2 broadcast applications of a non-selective herbicide to kill the existing fescue and other plant present and / or the addition of a summer annual cover crop to smother the existing stand (either "spray-spray-plant" or "spray-smother-spray-plant techniques are both acceptable methods to eliminate existing stands ). Wheat is often a successful winter cover crop if initial herbicide application begins in autumn. Possible options for summer smother crops include species such as sorghum-sudangrass, forage soybeans, cowpeas, etc. Many of these have herbicide-resistant technologies for improved seasonal weed control and therefore costs will vary accordingly. The production of seed by toxic endophyte plants should be prevented prior to planting seed in the autumn. The dry matter yield of any newly established tall fescue stand will be significantly less during the establishment year. Therefore, the lack of available forage for grazing livestock should be accounted for and necessary supplementation considered during this period.

THESE ESTIMATES SHOULD BE USED AS GUIDES FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY.

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System (Alabama A&M University and Auburn University) is an equal opportunity educator, provider, and employer. Trade and brand names are given for information purposes only. No guarantee, endorsement, or discrimination among comparable products is intended or implied by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System. © 2023 by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System. All rights reserved.

# Notes and Assumptions

- 1 Soil samples cost \$10
- 2 Soil Samples are pulled every three years
- 3 Soil Samples are pulled on 10 acre grids
- 4 Seed is planted with a grain drill
- 5 land is mowed twice
- 6 land is prepared with 1 disking
- 7 land is prepared with 1 chisel plowing
- 8 Land is sprayed twice with Glyphosate
- 9 Land rent is not included but charged to the cow-calf or stocker operation