

# Southeast Dairy Producer's Check-Off Program

# Research Summary

## Evaluation of new forage cultivars in south and north-central Florida

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### Implications

Camello and Spain are promising warm-season perennial grass species to be cultivated by dairy producers in South and North-Central Florida. The PIs of this project have started an invasiveness assessment of Spain and will start the application for releasing Spain as a cultivar in Florida as soon as the assessment is completed.

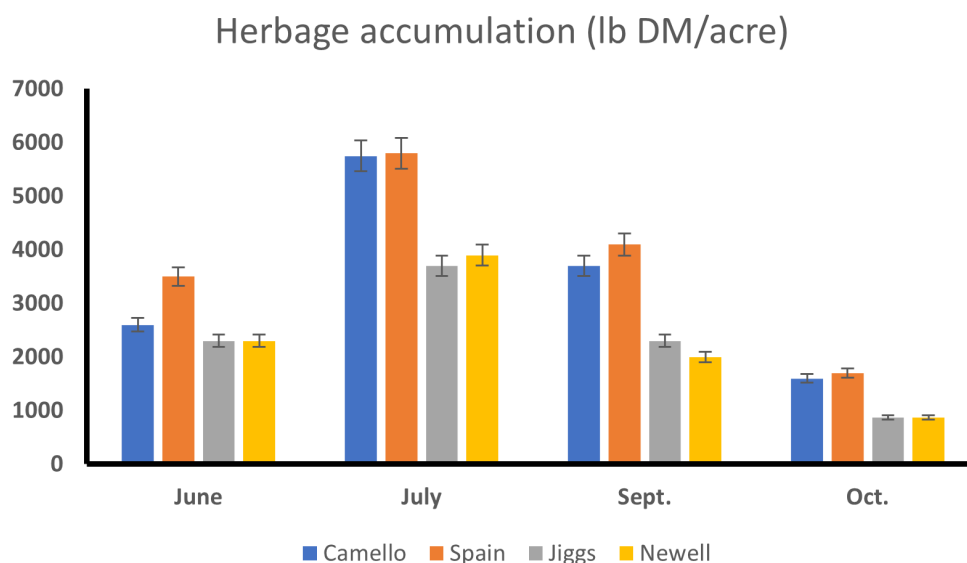


Figure 1. Herbage accumulation of Camello, Spain, Jiggs, and Newell in Gainesville in 2022.

### Methods

The experimental areas are located at the Plant Science Research and Education Center in Citra, FL and at the Range Cattle Research and Education Center, Ona, FL. The trial was conducted from April to October 2022. Treatments were the split-plot arrangement of three forage species/cultivars, Spain, Camello, and Jiggs bermudagrass (Ona), and Spain Camello, Jiggs, and Newell bermudagrass (Citra) and two harvest frequencies (3- or 6-weeks regrowth interval) distributed in a randomized complete block design with four replicates.

## Results

There was a species x month interaction for forage accumulation at Ona. The interaction occurred because Camello and Spain had greater forage accumulation than Jiggs in July, August, and September, but there was no difference among species in June. Spain had the greatest annual forage accumulation, followed by Camello, and Jiggs had the least forage accumulation. There was no harvest frequency effect on forage accumulation. However, forage harvested every 3 weeks had greater CP, IVDOM, and NDFD than at 6 weeks. Jiggs had greater CP concentration but lesser IVDOM and NDFD than Camello and Spain. In Gainesville, Spain and Camello had greater forage accumulation than Jiggs and Newell. In addition, Spain had greater herbage accumulation than Camello in June and September. There was greater herbage accumulation for Camello, Spain and Newell harvested at 6 than 3 weeks; however, there was no difference between 3- and 6-weeks harvest frequency in Jiggs.



Spain 1 week after harvest - Gainesville



Spain 6 weeks after harvest - Gainesville

## References of Published Work

de Paula, H.V.G., J.M.B. Vendramini, L.E. Sollenberger, P. Moriel, H.M. da Silva, J. Garzon, H.M.R. de Oliveira, I.M. Ferreira, and A.C. dos Santos. Herbage accumulation, nutritive value, and persistence of new warm-season perennial grasses. *Crop, Forage, and Turfgrass Sci.* <https://doi.org/10.1002/cft2.20168>.

Vendramini, J.M.B., L.E. Sollenberger, M.L. Silveira, P. Moriel, H.M.S. da Silva, J. Garzon, N.M. Lage, and J.L. da Silva. 2022. Evaluation of new warm-season perennial grass genotypes propagated by seed. ASA, CSSA, SSSA International Annual Meeting. Baltimore, MD.