

DECLARING FEBRUARY AS NATIONAL CLOVER MONTH

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Believe it or not, February is one of the hardest months for me to write my TCA article. The reason is that the obvious topic is planting clovers in pastures. As I look back over 20 years of articles, there are probably more written about clovers than any other topic. Pretty much every January or February we cover clover seeding recommendations. After racking my brain for the last week or so to come up with a different topic, I have decided it is easier to fully embrace the repetition and declare February as NATIONAL CLOVER MONTH. Seems like everything else has a special day or week. I think we all agree that something as important as clovers should have their own month.

Here are a few ways you can celebrate:

- **First of all, plant clovers in pastures and hayfields.** Remember the Joe Burns' slogan – 2,4,8 Let's renovate. Two pounds white, four pounds red, and eight pounds annual lespedeza the last two weeks of Feb. You can leave out the lespedeza, but make sure to use both red and white clover.
- **Name your next pet after a clover variety.** This is a good way to get a name for a dog, cat, horse, etc. Just look at some of the names: Rustler, Dynamite, and Cinnamon. These names are sweet. For you that are not impressed, there is always Companion white clover.
- **Find a way to include clover in at least one conversation each day in Feb.** Think about it – you're out to eat with friends and during the conversation about Vol football you say, "If they seed clover in Neyland Stadium, it could add the equivalent of 60 lb N per acre." They would look at you in amazement.
- **Look at UTBeef.com a couple of times each week.** We try to add new things to the website pretty often, so celebrate clovers by trying to learn the latest information on forage production. I realize this is a shameless plug for the site, but oh well.
- **Remind your forage producing friends to plant clover.** We all know that pretty much everyone in the state waits by their mailbox for my article to arrive. But for those few people that might miss it, be sure to remind them that February is clover planting month. Plant the last two weeks of the month, either by broadcasting or drilling. Broadcasting is best, since it helps keep you from planting too deep with a drill.

I have the feeling this is going to be a really big deal. Maybe we should even ask presidential candidates about their stance on clovers. Expect to be seeing this celebration on the national news, in the paper, and on the web. Remember, you heard it heard first.