**Grazing more can help save on feed costs**

Higher grain prices, drought-tightened hay inventories and market uncertainty give producers ample incentive to focus on maximizing pasture production for the next grazing season. Growing more, high-quality grazed forages is an excellent cost-containment strategy, and getting control of weeds is a great place to start.

When weeds, brush or other undesirable plants encroach on grazing space, it’s usually a sign something is amiss in the pasture. Adjusting grazing strategies, improving soil fertility and other improvements in the fall can help set the course for the next grazing season.

“During the spring, we control weeds so they’re out of the way of grass production,” says Scott Flynn, Zonal Biology Lead at Corteva Agriscience. “In the fall, especially in cool-season grasses, we’re looking to repair the stand.”

Fall is an excellent time for biennial and perennial weed management. Treating biennial weeds, such as musk and bull thistle and spotted knapweed, or perennials, including Russian knapweed, Canada thistle and leafy spurge, can reduce suppression of forage grasses.

Using a residual herbicide, such as DuraCor® herbicide, stops weeds that are up and growing while providing control of those that germinate later. This extended control will help stop weeds into next spring, preserving moisture and allowing grasses to get a head start on the weeds.

“Following a year where weather conditions were less than favorable, I encourage producers to to prepare for what’s to come,” Flynn says. “Eliminating weeds lets the grass get up and growing next spring. From there, the cow can be a very good management tool. You can work with her to graze properly so the grasses shade and outcompete the weeds.”