Century BMR- Information

What is **Brown Mid Rib Hybrid Sorghum Sudangrass** and why should I plant it?
Brown Mid Rib has been known for years in corn and millet but its introduction into forage sorghums and sorghum x sudangrasses is somewhat new. The **BMR** is a marker gene that when present in the plant turns the underside of the leaf and portions of the stem brown. The degree of darkness of the brown pigment in the plant has no bearing upon the quality of the plant. The plant is either **brown mid rib** or it is not. Plants with **brown mid rib** have reduced lignin content. The amount of reduction can vary from 40 to 60% depending upon cultural and environmental conditions. Lignin is that part of a plant that gives a plant rigidity and strength. It also is that part of the plant that passes through a ruminant animal undigested. Animals fed **BMR** forages receive more nutrients pound for pound than forages without **BMR**.

Growers should be aware that by reducing the lignin content of a plant it affects the stand-ability. For this reason special attention should be given to time of harvest. **Century** should be harvested at the pre-boot stage of growth.

Growers will also note when cattle are given a choice, they prefer **Century BMR** over conventional three way sorghum x sudangrass. The leaves of **Century** are very soft and the stems are pliable resulting in a forage that animals take too like a kid eating candy.

Century reaches "boot" stage 4 to 5 days later than other sudan type. When cut for hay leave a 1to 2 inch stubble to maximize tillering and re-growth.

Cultural practices for **Century** are no different from other sorghum x sudangrass. Use the same equipment to plant, cultivate, and harvest. Where you will see the difference is when you turn you cattle into to graze or feed your first bale. If you are a dairyman, you will see immediate results in your milk production once you start to feed or graze **Century BMR**.