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### Review of *Agronomy of Grassland Systems*, Second edition by C. J. Pearson and R. L. Ison

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**Agronomy of Grassland Systems.** Second edition. C. J. Pearson and R. L. Ison. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1997. xii+222 pp. Figures, tables, notes, references, index. \$80.00 cloth (ISBN 0-521-56010-1), \$32.95 paper (ISBN 0-521-56889-7).

*Agronomy of Grassland Systems* is an excellent reference, textbook, or guide for the forage professional, the best I have read promoting looking at forages in a systematic manner. It challenges researchers, extension specialists, consultants, and producers to think of their work as it fits into forage systems on a local or global basis. Using research from around the world, the book offers a unique global perspective; at the same time local producers will find it a practical reference for agronomic principles.

Its title denotes the book's main strength: looking at forages within a "systems" approach. This theme runs throughout, as each section's focus is examined in the context of the whole forage system. Thus each agronomy principle is explained not only in terms of its impact on current forage production, for example, but also on the sustained forage system along with the interactions associated with the system's change.

An additional strength of the book is its thoroughly detailed chapters on forage plants' establishment, growth, and regrowth—as good a general literature review of these subjects as I have seen in any textbook.

Graphs, tables, and other illustrations have been thoughtfully selected for clarification and emphasis from a global range representing various land regions and forage species. Although this gives the volume worldwide appeal, it in no way detracts from the usefulness of its concepts on the local level. The exceptionally lucid flow charts illustrating grassland systems and interactions within grassland systems challenge the forage professional to think systemically.

This is an excellent reference for anyone researching current forage literature. Each chapter cites relevant forage information sources. Many of the chapters could stand alone as excellent literature reviews, their topics are so thoroughly covered. **David Bade**, *Department of Soil and Crop Sciences, Texas A&M University/Texas Agricultural Extension Services*.