



EXTENSION PROGRAM

Forages

Advancing the economic and environmental value of forages

RESEARCH, TEST PLOTS, AND MARKET ANALYSIS CAN HELP FARMERS MAKE GOOD DECISIONS

The forage team at University of Minnesota Extension pursues research, plants test plots with cooperating farmers, and provides statistical analysis from hay market sales data. As they discover new information on alfalfa, corn silage, and other forage crops they share it with farmers who grow and use forage as feed for animals. They help predict the best times to harvest, provide nutrient analysis, and try out new inputs and products that go past the sales talk and let you know what really works and why, based on unbiased research.

WHAT WE OFFER

We serve Minnesota hay and forage growers, livestock producers, commercial hay producers, and agricultural professionals. We conduct research on forage production, host the annual Minnesota Forage Days, manage on-farm demonstration plots, conduct varietal trials on a number of different forage crops, and host the Upper Midwest Hay List, a self-serve website showing forage crops available across a four-state area.

An example of our work: Through the alfalfa scissors cut program, we clip samples of the year's first crop twice a week and analyze the data on maturity and protein levels. Using this data, we can tell growers the ideal harvest times for maximum quality forages.



DISCOVER MORE

Farm Information Line: 1-800-232-9077,
fil@umn.edu, 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., M-F

extension.umn.edu/forages