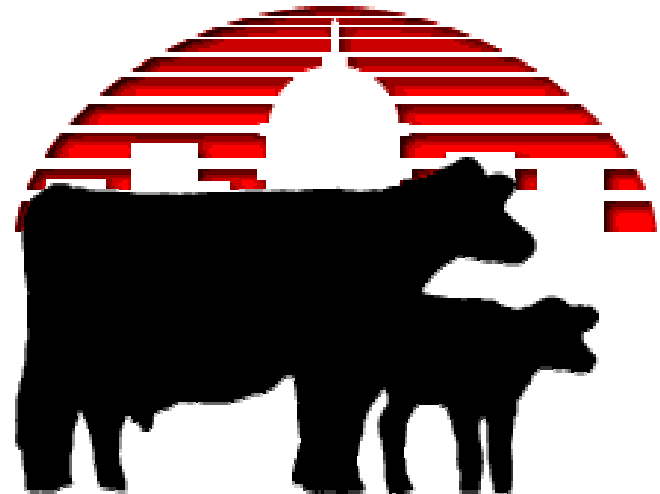


Forages for Dry Cows

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Main Forage Options for Dry Cows in Upper Midwest

- Legume Silage
- Grass Silage
- Small-Grain Silage
- Corn Silage
- Hay

Legume Silage

□ Potential Advantages

- Moderate Moisture
- Moderate NEI
- Moderate Fill Factor
- Minimal Sorting

□ Potential Limitations

- High Moisture
- High CP
- High DIP
- Moderate/High SIP
- High K
- High DCAD
- High Ca

Grass Silage

□ Potential Advantages

- Moderate Moisture
- Low/Moderate CP
- Moderate NEI
- Moderate/High Fill Factor
- Moderate Sorting
- Low Ca
- Low/Moderate K
- Low/Moderate DCAD

□ Potential Limitations

- High Moisture
- Moderate/High DIP
- Moderate/High SIP
- High K
- High DCAD

Small-Grain Silage

□ Potential Advantages

- Moderate Moisture
- Low/Moderate CP
- Moderate NEI
- Moderate/High Fill Factor
- Moderate Sorting
- Low Ca
- Moderate K
- Moderate DCAD

□ Potential Limitations

- High Moisture
- Moderate/High DIP
- Moderate/High SIP
- High K
- High DCAD
- Poor Bunk Stability

Corn Silage

□ Potential Advantages

- Low CP, DIP, SIP
- Low/Moderate Sorting
- Low Ca
- Low K
- Low DCAD

□ Potential Limitations

- High Moisture
- High Acidity
- High NEI
- High Starch
- Low Fill Factor/eNDF
- High Sorting
- Poor Bunk Stability

Hay

□ Potential Advantages

- Low Moisture
- Low/Moderate CP
- Low SIP
- Moderate NEI
- High Fill Factor/eNDF
- Low/Moderate Ca
- Low/Moderate K
- Low/Moderate DCAD

□ Potential Limitations

- High CP
- Moderate/High DIP
- High Ca
- High K
- High DCAD
- High Sorting

General Comments

- There is no single perfect forage for dry cows
- Inclusion of corn silage in the forage program reduces CP, DIP, SIP, Ca, K, DCAD
- Limit corn silage to < 50% of forage DM, because of moisture, acidity, NEI, fill factor, and bunk stability issues
- K and DCAD limitations of grass and small grain silages can be reduced through management of soil fertility

General Comments

- Hay-crop silage should have 20% to 25% of particles on top screen of PSU shaker box
- 5 lb. per cow of long or coarsely chopped hay may aide dry cows by reducing ration moisture content and increasing fill factor/eNDF
- Sorting problems may be a concern at higher feeding rates of hay

General Comments

- Hay for dry cows should be selected to minimize CP, K, and DCAD limitations
- Forages for dry cows should be highly palatable
- Clostridial or butyric acid silages should not be fed to dry COWS
- Forages for dry cows should be free of molds and mycotoxins