

ON THE RANCH

From Field to Bunk: Growing and Feeding Dairy Quality Forages

January 12, 2018
Lifelong Learning Center, Norfolk
9:30 am to 4:00 pm

The Early Bird registration fee is \$50 per person, and the deadline to register for this fee is December 29. The fee after December 29 is \$65 per person. This fee includes lunch and all materials.

For more information visit: <http://igrow.org/events/i-29-moo-university-2018/>

Beef Profitability Workshop and Private Pesticide Applicator Training

January 17, 2018 at 1:00 p.m.

Courthouse Annex in Center, NE

Cost for both: \$40

Speakers: Nebraska Extension Educators
Dennis Bauer and Amy Timmerman

During the winter of 2018, Nebraska Extension will host 16 Beef Profitability Workshops in Eastern Nebraska to help beef producers evaluate their operations to make them more profitable through the latest research information.

Example of topics that may be presented at specific locations are: Harvesting Crop Residues – How it affects future crop yields; Mineral Nutrition; Balancing the Ranch or Farm for Protein; Composting Livestock Mortality Carcasses; Windrow Grazing; Forage Testing and What the Numbers Mean; EPDs and Bull Selection; Economics in the Beef Industry and Beef Outlook; Fencing and Watering Options on Crop Residue; Managing Risk on the Average Sized Cow-Calf Operation; Evaluation and Valuing Cull Beef Cows and their Carcasses; Cow Depreciation – 2nd largest cost; Hay and Grazing

Rental Rates; Global Market Landscape; Livestock Outlook; Grass Production; and Cover Crop Production

Workshops are sponsored by Nebraska Extension.

2018 Location Sites (No meals unless otherwise stated)

The cost is \$15.00, but may vary from location depending on local sponsorship and Private Pesticide Applicator Training. To register please call contact number listed.

January 16, 2018
Extension Office
Hartington at 1:00 p.m.
Contact 402-254-6821

January 17, 2018
(Private Pesticide Training)
Extension Office
Center at 1:00 p.m.
Contact 402-288-5611

January 18, 2018
Extension Office
Pierce at 1:00 p.m.
Contact 402-329-4821

January 30, 2018
Loup County Fairgrounds
Taylor at 1:00 p.m.
Contact 308-346-4200

February 6, 2018
Methodist Church
Ericson at 6:30 p.m.
Contact 308-346-4200

February 8, 2018
Filmore County Fairgrounds
Geneva at 1:00 p.m.
Contact 402-746-3417

February 15, 2018
(Private Pesticide Training)
Extension Office
Butte at 1:30 p.m.
Contact 402-336-2760

February 20, 2018
(Private Pesticide Training)
Extension Office
O'Neill at 6:30 p.m.
Contact 402-366-2760

February 22, 2018
Extension Office
Neligh at 1:00 p.m.
Contact 402-887-5414

February 26, 2018
Eastern Nebraska Research &
Extension Center
Mead at 1:00 p.m.
Contact 402-624-8030

February 27, 2018
Extension Office
Tecumseh at 1:00 p.m.
Contact 402-624-8030

February 28, 2018
Lutheran Church
Wilber at 1:00 p.m.
Contact 402-821-2151

March 6, 2018
(Private Pesticide Training)
Methodist Church
Bassett at 1:30 p.m.
Contact 402-387-2213

March 13, 2018
Fire Hall
Wayne at 1:00 p.m.
Contact 402-372-6006

March 14, 2018
Colfax County Fairgrounds
Leigh at 1:00 p.m.
Contact 402-372-6006

March 15, 2018
Extension Office
Blair at 1:00 p.m.
Contact 402-372-6006



Interpreting Forage Quality of Grass Hay

By Bruce Anderson, Nebraska Extension Forage Specialist

Have you ever tested the quality of your grass hay and been disappointed at the low relative feed value? Well, maybe your worry is unnecessary.

Farmers and ranchers often tell me their prairie hay or cane hay or other grass hay looks really good but when a lab tested it the relative feed value, also called RFV, was surprisingly low, maybe in the 70s or 80s. So what's wrong with the hay?

Well actually, nothing may be wrong. You see, relative feed value was initially developed primarily to test legumes like alfalfa for the dairy industry. It used two types of fiber, the acid detergent fiber (ADF) and the neutral detergent fiber (NDF) to calculate RFV. The NDF helped estimate intake and ADF estimated energy.

However, this system assumed all fiber had the same digestibility. We know that is not true, and it especially misrepresents the forage quality of grasses. Grasses have more fiber than legumes but grass fiber usually is more digestible than legume fiber. So grass hay frequently is ranked lower than it should be using relative feed value.



Grasses have more fiber than legumes but grass fiber usually is more digestible than legume fiber.
Photo courtesy of Troy Walz

Fortunately, new, low-cost tests have been developed that do a very good job of measuring digestible fiber, thus doing a better job of estimating forage quality of grasses. This test is called relative forage quality, or RFQ for short.

Forage scientists and animal nutritionists have worked together with these tests to also revise the intake and energy estimates so results from these tests predict how animals will truly perform much more accurately.

While this new RFQ test is especially useful when testing grassy hays, it also has been proven to be better with alfalfa and other legumes. So when you test forages in the future, look for labs that offer relative forage quality. Your numbers will be more accurate.

Nebraska's Cow-Calf Profitability Series

Beef Profit Tips Workshop and Private Pesticide Applicator Training

Don't Miss This One of a Kind Workshop

January 17, 2018
Courthouse Annex Meeting Room
Center, Nebraska
1:00 p.m.
Cost: \$40 per person
Pre-registration by January 15

Program topics presented by University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension Educators
Dennis Bauer
Amy Timmerman

Topics:
Methods of Seeding Perennial Grasses
Harvesting High Quality Forages to Reduce Mineral Supplementation
Private Pesticide Applicator Information

This workshop is Sponsored by
Nebraska Extension in
Knox County

To register call the Nebraska Extension Office in
Knox County at 402-288-5611 or
email knox-county@unl.edu.

