

ALTERNATIVE FORAGES, WHATS BEST FOR YOUR COWS?

SORGHUM SUDAN GRASS-Can be cut as early as 45 days. Yield is extremely high for an alternative forage. Loves warm, hot, and humid weather. However, digestibility can test high, but due to the fiber content feeds poor. More of a heifer feed if harvested late. Can be fed to cows if harvested in the earlier stages. Moisture of the feed is also high.

- RFV 100-130
- DM TONS-3-4.5

BARLEY/BIN RUN OATS-Both forages when taken pre-boot stage (not headed out) makes a great alternative forage. Yields are not the highest, but protein levels are average, and fibers are low if it is taken early.

- RFV 125-135 PREBOOT STAGE
- DM TONS 2.5-4

FORAGE OATS-Grow tall and fast. Similar to bin run oats, but more digestible and tonnage is greater. Also carries more crude protein per sample. Can be planted after wheat as well and harvested at frost.

- RFV 120-140 PREBOOT STAGE
- DM TONS 3-4.5

PEAS AND OATS-Grows tall and fast. Peas can be difficult to dry down but carries in more crude protein and sugars for the cows and heifers. Overall makes a nice feed.

- RFV 110-140
- DM TONS 4.5-6.5

SOYBEANS-Carry high amounts of crude protein, but typically have higher fibers. This alternative forage takes longer to produce and loves warm weather. If it matures too rapidly, stalks can get woody.

- RFV 145-180
- DM TONS 5-7

MIXED GRASSES- Grasses make great feed due to their highly digestible fiber properties. The grasses can be interseeded and used to fill in bare spots in your alfalfa fields. Grasses are typically lower in protein, yield well, and is soft and palatable for the cows. For specific variety information contact your nutritionist or agronomist.

- RFV-110-200
- DM TONS 3.5-7