




Soil Fertility and Considerations for Grass and Mixed Forage Hay

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Disclaimer: This use of trade names is for descriptive purposes and does not represent an endorsement by the author.

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Soil Test and Nutrient Management Planning




Soil testing is an affordable investment that can help increase forage quantity and quality while appropriately allocating manure and commercial fertilizer.



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Nutrient Removal





- Mechanical harvest and grazing remove nutrients from the field.
- Grass hay removes 15 lb P₂O₅ and 55 lb K₂O per ton harvested per acre.
- Harvesting 4 tons of grass hay removes approximately 355 lb application of potash per acre.



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Nitrogen Management



Nitrogen rate guidelines from UWEXT A2809

Crop	Soil nitrogen content (ppm)			
	<2.0	2.0-9.9	10.0-20.0	>20.0
	lb N/a to apply			
Grass Hay	160	130	100	50
Pasture, grass	160	1.0	100	50
Pasture < 30% legume-grass	0	0	0	0
Pasture > 30% legume-grass	0	0	0	0

- Nitrogen applications for grass hay and grass pasture should be split into two or three applications per year.
- Grass hay includes bromegrass, fescue, orchardgrass, ryegrass, and timothy.



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Manage Manure Credits




Treat Manure like Fertilizer!



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Thanks!

Questions?

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