



Summer Annual Forage Options for NNY

Considerations:

- Accurately inventory stored forages on hand and estimate realistic yields of established crops
- Potential for herbicide carryover in available fields
- Availability of seed
- Soil moisture status
- Adequate growing season remaining

Options:

- Purchase additional forages
- Plant emergency forage crop(s)
- Reduce animal numbers

Emergency forage options for a late planting:

Forage Species	Yield Results/Potential	Seeding rate & N requirement	Harvest and other details
BMR Corn (warm season annual grass)	2-8 tons DM/acre 4 tons DM/acre in a ENY study	Drilled or 15" rows. 50,000-60,000/acre at 1.5-2" depth	Select short-season variety Harvest at tasseling, 60 days. High moisture at harvest, can't ensile until after frost. Silage or baleage.
BMR Sorghum Sudangrass (warm season annual grass)	3-5.5 tons DM/acre	65-70 lbs/acre at 1/2- 3/4" depth 100-135 lbs N/acre at planting	Drill is best. Harvest at 36-48" at 5-6" from ground for good regrowth. Cut again in 40 days. Wide swath for drying, chop at 65% moisture. Prussic acid concern if frosted. 15-16% CP Can be expensive for 1-cut. Silage or baleage.
Pearl Millet (warm season annual grass)	2.7 tons DM/acre in a 2005 NNY study	15-20 lbs/acre 50-75 lbs N/acre at planting	Well-suited to warm, dry growing conditions. Cheap alternative to BMR SxS Silage, baleage or dry hay.
Spring Oats (cool season annual grass)	1-3 tons DM/acre. 0.8 to 1.3 tons DM/acre in a 2015 NNY study (v. dry conditions)	3-3.5 bu/acre at 1/8- 1/4" depth 50-75 lbs N/acre	Plant before Aug 15 th , harvest in 60-75 days. 20% CP, 46% NDF Silage, baleage or dry hay.

Buckwheat (warm season annual)	1.4 tons DM/acre in a 2005 NNY study	36-72 lbs/acre at 1-2” depth 20-30 lbs N/acre	Drill is best. Favors cool, wet conditions. Not well-suited to warm, dry conditions. Cut at flowering, 5-6 weeks after planting. 15-18% CP, 43% NDF Silage, baleage or dry hay.
Teff (warm season annual grass)	1.5-2 tons DM per acre for late- planted, 1 cut. 1.8 tons DM/acre in a 2005 NNY study	4-5 lbs/acre 50 lbs N/acre at planting	Tiny seed Needs firm, fine seedbed - drill or cultipacker seeder. Harvest 50-55 days after planting at early boot stage, then 40-45 days later, at height of 3-4” 15-16% CP, 64% NDF, 69% NDFD Well-suited to dry growing conditions. Silage, baleage or dry hay.

For more information about field crop and soil management, contact your local Cornell Cooperative Extension office or NNY Cornell University Cooperative Extension Regional Field Crops and Soils Specialists, Mike Hunter and Kitty O’Neil.

Kitty O’Neil
St. Lawrence County CCE Office, Canton
(315) 379- 9192 x253 or (315) 854-1218
kitty.oneil@cornell.edu

Mike Hunter
Jefferson County CCE Office, Watertown
(315) 788-8450
meh27@cornell.edu

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