



## National Forage Week

### Overview

Forage is an essential part of our lives. Without this often-fibrous plant material, we could not produce many meat and dairy products. These include some classic favorites such as cheeseburgers, pizza, and ice cream. Forage also plays a part in conservation by limiting soil erosion, providing food and habitat for wildlife, and protecting surface waters. Because of its important role in both human and animal life, the American Forage and Grassland Council decided to dedicate a week in June to celebrate and recognize its impact. During this week, AFGC and its affiliated councils share fun facts, videos, and photos on social media to educate others and bring awareness to the significance of forage. Some state councils have teamed up with similar organizations to achieve this goal and even had this week proclaimed in their state.

These toolkits can be used as a guide on how you would like to celebrate National Forage Week. Both in-person and virtual ideas are included and are up to your state council's discretion. However, because forage affects our lives in so many ways, the sky is the limit on how you can celebrate this week!

### What is forage?

Forage is plant material eaten by livestock in the form of pasture, hay, or silage.

### Why celebrate?

Believe it or not, forage affects everyone! Forage helps produce our favorite foods, reduces soil erosion, serves as a home and food for wildlife, and contributes an estimated 25% to agriculture's economic output. Its benefits don't stop there either. We have so much to appreciate because of forage.

### How do you celebrate?

So many ways! Most celebrations involve food, and lucky for you, forage is responsible for a lot of our favorites. Make a trendy charcuterie board full of meat and cheese from grazing animals or use this as an excuse to help yourself to a big bowl of ice cream (you deserve it).

If celebration through education is your jam, National Forage Week is a great time to do that, too! Read and research publications found on the AFGC site or create a fun educational activity for a local youth organization.

It would be a shame to celebrate National Forage Week without recognizing its environmental benefits. Take a soothing nature walk during a work break, download an app to help you identify different forages, or volunteer to clean up a grassy area.

Forage impacts our lives in numerous ways, so there are numerous ways to celebrate! For more ways to celebrate, please see the Resources section.