

AFGC Interpretive Summary requirements (see example):

- Must be a Word document; do not submit a PDF.
- One page maximum; bullet points are permitted; tables or figures are not permitted.
- 1-inch margins top, bottom, right, and left.
- All text is 12 pt. Times Roman or CG Times font (no exceptions).
- Under the paragraph option of Word, set Spacing to 0 pt. for Before and After for the whole document.
- Title (all caps) and authors are centered; insert two single spaces between each.
- Summary is double-spaced, center-justified.
 - Indent the first line 0.5 inch.
 - Write in non-technical language for a wide audience.
 - Report results or findings; do not state that results will be presented at meeting.
 - English units are preferred, but not required.
 - Use a zero to the left of decimal points (0.05, not .05).
 - Use a slash for yield, rate, etc. (lb./acre).
- Author information is single-spaced, right-justified.
 - Do not use the footnote option of Word.
 - Insert at least one single space between summary and author information.
 - Include names if multiple affiliations, department or agency, university or location, company, email address (whatever is provided will be printed).
- Summaries that do not meet requirements will be returned unedited to the author.

FIELD DRYING RATE DIFFERENCES AMONG COOL-SEASON GRASSES HARVESTED FOR HAY

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Making high quality, cool-season grass hay is a challenge due to the field drying time needed to reach the appropriate moisture content and the high probability of rain in the spring when hay is typically produced. This study was conducted to determine if cool-season grasses with different yield potential and physical characteristics have different drying rates. Inflorescence-stage meadow fescue, orchardgrass, and reed canarygrass were cut to a 4-in stubble and placed in an 8-ft swath with a self-propelled, 16-ft rotary disc mower equipped with a steel roll conditioner (3-mm gap) at 11:00 am on three consecutive days of early June in each of two years. Moisture and nutritive value were measured hourly from 11:00 am until 4:00 pm of the day of harvest, and over the same time period of the next two days. Despite large differences in yield and leaf:stem ratio, there were few differences in drying rate among the grasses (mean of 0.229, 0.150, and 0.119/h on the first, second, and third days, respectively). Year-to-year variation may result in one grass having a lower initial moisture content at harvest like that observed in meadow fescue, which would allow earlier processing into silage on the first day of curing. The results of our study, however, indicate that species will not influence the drying rate of cool-season grasses harvested at the same relative maturity.

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