



AMERICAN FORAGE & GRASSLAND COUNCIL

AFGC National Forage Week Press Release – 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

National Forage Week Celebrates the Crucial Role of Forage Systems in Sustainable Agriculture

[City, Date] – The American Forage and Grassland Council announces National Forage Week from [Date] to [Date] in recognition of the vital importance of forage systems in sustaining our environment, economy, and food security.

Forage systems, encompassing a diverse array of grasses, legumes, and other plants, play a multifaceted role in supporting agricultural sustainability. Here are some key facts highlighting the significance of forages:

- **Nutrient Cycling:** Forage systems are essential for capturing and recycling nutrients from the soil, contributing to sustainable agriculture practices and enhancing soil fertility.
- **Livestock Feed:** Forages serve as a primary source of nutrition for livestock, providing essential nutrients such as protein and fiber necessary for their health and productivity.
- **Soil Health:** Deep-rooted forage plants help improve soil structure, enhance water infiltration, and reduce erosion, thereby promoting soil health and preventing degradation.
- **Climate Resilience:** Forage systems contribute to climate resilience by sequestering carbon dioxide from the atmosphere through photosynthesis, aiding in the mitigation of climate change.
- **Biodiversity:** Forages support diverse ecosystems by providing habitats for various plant and animal species, enhancing biodiversity, and ecological balance.
- **Water Quality:** Forage systems act as natural filters, trapping sediments and pollutants, thus improving water quality in streams, rivers, and aquifers.
- **Economic Impact:** Forages are a cornerstone of agricultural economies, supporting livelihoods for farmers, ranchers, and rural communities through livestock production and related industries.
- **Food Security:** Forages indirectly contribute to global food security by sustaining livestock populations, which provide a significant portion of the world's protein supply.

- **Energy Production:** Certain forage crops, like switchgrass and alfalfa, can be utilized for bioenergy production, offering a renewable alternative to fossil fuels and reducing dependency on non-renewable resources.
- **Recreation and Aesthetics:** Forage landscapes provide aesthetic value and recreational opportunities, such as grazing lands for outdoor activities like hiking, birdwatching, and nature tourism.

During National Forage Week, let us recognize and celebrate the invaluable contributions of forage systems to our society by sharing a forage fact with neighbor, coworker, farmer or within your community.

For more information and resources on National Forage Week, please visit www.afgc.org/national-forage-week.

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About [Your Organization]:

The American Forage and Grassland Council (AFGC) is dedicated to promoting sustainable agriculture and environmental stewardship through research, education, and advocacy. With a commitment to fostering resilient food systems, we work collaboratively with farmers, ranchers, policymakers, and communities to advance innovative solutions for a thriving planet.

AFGC is an organization made up of 22 affiliate councils in the United States with over 2,500 members. Our primary objective is to promote the profitable production and sustainable utilization of quality forage and grasslands and are dedicated to advancing the use of forage as a prime feed resource. Our members represent the academic community, producers, private industry, institutes, and foundations. Together, they unite in a common cause to promote and develop the forage industry.