



AMERICAN FORAGE & GRASSLAND COUNCIL

National Forage Week 2024 – Forages and Their Contribution to Society

*Facts for Use with Various Promotional Outlets (Ads, Infographics, Social Media, Etc.)

1. **Nutrient Cycling:** Forage systems play a crucial role in nutrient cycling, as they efficiently capture and recycle nutrients from the soil, contributing to sustainable agriculture practices.
2. **Livestock Feed:** Forages are a primary source of nutrition for livestock, providing essential nutrients like protein and fiber necessary for their health and productivity.
3. **Soil Health:** Deep-rooted forage plants help improve soil structure, enhance water infiltration, and reduce erosion, thus promoting soil health and preventing degradation.
4. **Climate Resilience:** Forage systems contribute to climate resilience by sequestering carbon dioxide from the atmosphere through photosynthesis, helping mitigate climate change.
5. **Biodiversity:** Forages support diverse ecosystems by providing habitats for various plant and animal species, enhancing biodiversity and ecological balance.
6. **Water Quality:** Forage systems act as natural filters, trapping sediments and pollutants, thus improving water quality in streams, rivers, and aquifers.
7. **Economic Impact:** Forages are a vital component of agricultural economies, supporting livelihoods for farmers, ranchers, and rural communities through livestock production and related industries.
8. **Food Security:** Forages contribute to global food security by sustaining livestock populations, which provide a significant portion of the world's protein supply.
9. **Energy Production:** Certain forage crops can be utilized for bioenergy production, offering a renewable alternative to fossil fuels and reducing dependency on non-renewable resources.
10. **Recreation and Aesthetics:** Forage landscapes provide aesthetic value and recreational opportunities, such as grazing lands for outdoor activities like hiking, birdwatching, and nature tourism.