

Baleage – Making & Utilizing Higher Quality Hay

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Making better quality hay and baleage is important for improving profitability for cattle producers. Gone are (should be) the days of grabbing round bales made eight months previously from the fence row and considering that forage “good enough” for beef cattle. This should be the day of utilizing better quality forages while reducing grain and supplements fed to the cattle. Growing and harvesting high quality forages on your own farm should be high priority –as high as growing 200+ bushel/acre corn. Should your acres be used for corn and soybeans –or forage? Can they be used for both? In the past few years forages have been as profitable as grain for many cattle producers...if the forage acre and harvest was managed properly.

In this discussion I will show how cereal grains and annual ryegrass can be used very well as a forage crop harvested as baleage. In addition I will show how making alfalfa hay at the proper stage greatly enhances animal performance.