Summer Annual Forage Options for NNY

Considerations:
Accurately inventory stored forages on hand and estimate realistic yields of established crops
Potential for herbicide carryover in available fields
Availability of seed
Soil moisture status
Adequate growing season remaining

Options:
Purchase additional forages
Plant emergency forage crop(s)
Reduce animal numbers

Emergency forage options for a late planting:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Forage Species</th>
<th>Yield Results/Potential</th>
<th>Seeding rate &amp; N requirement</th>
<th>Harvest and other details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BMR Corn (warm season annual grass)</td>
<td>2-8 tons DM/acre in a ENY study</td>
<td>Drilled or 15” rows. 50,000-60,000/acre at 1.5-2” depth</td>
<td>Select short-season variety Harvest at tasseling, 60 days. High moisture at harvest, can’t ensile until after frost. Silage or baleage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMR Sorghum Sudangrass (warm season annual grass)</td>
<td>3-5.5 tons DM/acre</td>
<td>65-70 lbs/acre at ½-3/4” depth 100-135 lbs N/acre at planting</td>
<td>Drill is best. Harvest at 36-48” at 5-6” from ground for good regrowth. Cut again in 40 days. Wide swath for drying, chop at 65% moisture. Prussic acid concern if frosted. 15-16% CP Can be expensive for 1-cut. Silage or baleage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pearl Millet (warm season annual grass)</td>
<td>2.7 tons DM/acre in a 2005 NNY study</td>
<td>15-20 lbs/acre 50-75 lbs N/acre at planting</td>
<td>Well-suited to warm, dry growing conditions. Cheap alternative to BMR SxS Silage, baleage or dry hay.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Oats (cool season annual grass)</td>
<td>1-3 tons DM/acre. 0.8 to 1.3 tons DM/acre in a 2015 NNY study (v. dry conditions)</td>
<td>3-3.5 bu/acre at 1/8-1/4” depth 50-75 lbs N/acre</td>
<td>Plant before Aug 15th, harvest in 60-75 days. 20% CP, 46% NDF Silage, baleage or dry hay.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Buckwheat

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Yield</th>
<th>Nitrogen Fertilization</th>
<th>Planting Method</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(warm season annual)</td>
<td>1.4 tons DM/acre</td>
<td>36-72 lbs/acre at 1-2” depth</td>
<td>Drill is best. Favors cool, wet conditions. Not well-suited to warm, dry conditions. Cut at flowering, 5-6 weeks after planting.</td>
<td>15-18% CP, 43% NDF Silage, baleage or dry hay.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in a 2005 NNY study</td>
<td>20-30 lbs N/acre</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**36-72 lbs/acre at 1” depth**

**20-30 lbs N/acre**

**Planting Method**

**Drill is best.**

**Favors cool, wet conditions. Not well-suited to warm, dry conditions. Cut at flowering, 5-6 weeks after planting.**

**15-18% CP, 43% NDF Silage, baleage or dry hay.**

### Teff

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(warm season annual grass)</td>
<td>1.5-2 tons DM per acre for late-planted, 1 cut. 1.8 tons DM/acre in a 2005 NNY study</td>
<td>4-5 lbs/acre</td>
<td>Tiny seed Needs firm, fine seedbed - drill or cultipacker seeder. Harvest 50-55 days after planting at early boot stage, then 40-45 days later, at height of 3-4”</td>
<td>15-16% CP, 64% NDF, 69% NDFD Well-suited to dry growing conditions. Silage, baleage or dry hay.</td>
</tr>
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**4-5 lbs/acre**

**50 lbs N/acre at planting**

**Planting Method**

**Tiny seed Needs firm, fine seedbed - drill or cultipacker seeder. Harvest 50-55 days after planting at early boot stage, then 40-45 days later, at height of 3-4”**

**15-16% CP, 64% NDF, 69% NDFD Well-suited to dry growing conditions. Silage, baleage or dry hay.**

For more information about field crop and soil management, contact your local Cornell Cooperative Extension office or NNY Cornell University Cooperative Extension Regional Field Crops and Soils Specialists, Mike Hunter and Kitty O’Neil.

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**Our Mission**

“The Northern New York Regional Ag Team aims to improve the productivity and viability of agricultural industries, people and communities in Jefferson, Lewis, St. Lawrence, Franklin, Clinton and Essex Counties by promoting productive, safe, economically and environmentally sustainable management practices and by providing assistance to industry, government, and other agencies in evaluating the impact of public policies affecting the industry.”

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