

## 2009 TEAM FORAGE ALFALFA YIELD AND PERSISTENCE ANALYSIS PROJECT

### OBJECTIVES:

1. To verify the yield and quality of alfalfa harvested from production fields over the life of the stand beginning with the first production year (year after seeding).
2. To quantify decreases in stand productivity of alfalfa fields as they age.

### GENERAL PROTOCOL:

1. Identify a producer who is **willing to commit** to measuring yield in a first production year field (**seeded in 2008**) and doing the same for the remaining years of that stand's production.
  - Operations with on-farm scales are being targeted such that the production from an entire field can be quantified. However, producers/agents willing to participate who wish to only weigh production from a portion (at least 1 acre) of a field may also participate. The same area of the field must be weighed during the length of the study.
  - There is no limitation on stand life.
2. It is the responsibility of the extension agent or their designee to verify the field or area dimensions and calculate exact acreage (GPS can be used for this if available). The agent is also responsible for obtaining a forage sample from the harvested field/area at each cutting. The cooperator can do this themselves as long as they commit to following the protocol.
3. Two samples per field/location need to be taken for a forage quality analysis. A composite sample from the first and last load harvested from the field should be taken. Place samples in a freezer until they are sent to the Marshfield Forage Lab for analysis. Fill-out a sample submission form ([http://uwlab.soils.wisc.edu/madison/files/forage\\_form.pdf](http://uwlab.soils.wisc.edu/madison/files/forage_form.pdf)). Use the Team Forage Account Number: 582 and indicate on the form that is for the Team Forage Alfalfa Yield Project. There will be no cost to the producer.
4. Agents will be provided with a spreadsheet record keeping form. Results should be sent or emailed to the cooperator after each cutting.

Please note that this is a research-based, information gathering initiative. The data will be shared with participating growers but with no disclosure of names attached to data from other growers in the project. It is our intent to make this as easy as possible for both the agent and producer, while at the same time gathering good data. On-farm scales now make this possible.

This is not a contest for highest yield and there will be no rewards.