

SOUTH DAKOTA-Forage Sorghum, Sainfoin, & Teff Grass Evaluation for Forage Production

Karla Hernandez, South Dakota State University-Extension

Crop production in South Dakota has been affected by dry conditions. Requests on what options farmers have is a top priority. On June 20, teff grass, forage sorghum, and sainfoin were planted three times with four replicates at the Northeast Experimental Research Station near Volga, SD. The objective for this trial is to provide data on tonnage and forage production. This trial will be replicated at the Southeast Experimental Station near Beresford, SD, for 2018. Key points for choosing among these options:

Teff Grass

- Provides fast growth during summer months.
- Usually ready to harvest 45-55 days after planting.
- Harvest at early boot stage.



Forage Sorghum

- Warm-season annual grass that can be grown as a silage crop.
- Yield and forage quality are maximized at 60-72% moisture.
- Test for prussic acid and nitrates, especially in drought.
- Seeding Rate: 8-12 lbs/ac.

Sainfoin

- Highly palatable to sheep and cattle and often preferred over alfalfa.
- Well-suited to haying due to upright growth.
- Recommended to be cut once at full bloom stage.
- Seeding Rate: 25-30 lbs/ac.

