

Forage Research Update

Compiled and edited by Paul Peterson, University of Minnesota

NORTH DAKOTA - Barley Forage: Variety Matters

Dwain Meyer and Jerry Franckowiak, NDSU

The forage yield and quality of 13 barley cultivars and breeding lines were evaluated in 2005 and 2006 at both Fargo and Carrington, ND. The target harvest maturity was late milk, when tip florets were initiating soft dough.

In 2005 in Fargo, the variety 'Bestford', a hooded six-rowed forage cultivar, had the greatest forage yield (4.9 ton DM/acre) and RFV (118). In addition, Bestford had the lowest NDF of the entries. 'Hays', a two-rowed forage cultivar, was near average in yield, but had low acid-detergent lignin (ADL) and the greatest *in vitro* dry matter digestibility (66% IVDMD). 'Bowman' isolines, with or without the orange lemma character, were similar in forage yield and RFV, but the orange lemma isolate had less acid-detergent lignin and greater IVDMD (56%).