

Organic Forages Survey

Start of Block: Block 1

Welcome to the **Managing Organic Forages Survey**.

You are being invited to take part in this research study because you operate an organic dairy or forage operation in the United States.

This research is funded by the USDA National Institute of Food & Agriculture and is led by Heather Darby, the Principal Investigator from the University of Vermont College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

Purpose

To create a thriving organic dairy sector, it is crucial for the industry to gain a better understanding of management tools that foster farm and market success. This survey will help build understanding of the forage research and education needs of organic dairy farms in the United States.

Study Procedures

The survey is completely voluntary and confidential- your individual responses will not be attributed to you in publications or other materials that may result from this work. The survey will take about 10 minutes to complete.

Benefits

As a participant, this research study may directly benefit you, and information from this study may benefit others now or in the future.

Risks

We will do our best to protect the information we collect from you during this study. We will not collect any information that will identify you to further protect your confidentiality and avoid any potential risk for an accidental breach of confidentiality.

Costs

There is no cost to you for participation in this research study.

Compensation

You will not be paid for participating in this study.

Confidentiality

All information collected during the course of this study will be stored with a non-identifying code number for analysis purposes. Data will be stored on password protected computers used only by the research team.

Voluntary Participation/Withdrawal

Taking part in this study is voluntary. You are free to not answer any questions or withdraw at any time. You may choose not to take part in this study, or if you decide to take part, you can change your mind later and withdraw from the study.

Questions

If you have any questions about this study now or in the future, you may contact me Heather Darby at the following phone number- 802-524-6501. If you have questions or concerns about

your rights as a research participant, then you may contact the Director of the Research Protections Office at (802) 656-5040.

End of Block: Block 1

Start of Block: About your Farm Operation

In which state is your farm operation?

▼ Alabama (1) ... I do not reside in the United States (53)

About how many years has your operation been certified organic?

0 4 8 12 16 20 24 28 32 36 40

Years ()



Do you identify as part of the plain community?

Yes (1)

No (2)

Which option best describes your operation?

Certified Organic Dairy Farm (1)

Certified Organic Forage Crop Producer (2)

Both of these (3)

Please select the option that best describes the size of your dairy operation.

- 1-10 Mature Cows (1)
- 11-50 Mature Cows (2)
- 51-200 Mature Cows (3)
- 201-400 Mature Cows (4)
- More than 400 Mature Cows (5)

Please provide the number of total cropland acres.
And of the total, how many are perennial forage acres?

	Total Cropland Acres		Perennial Forage Acres (part of total)	
	Owned (1)	Rented (2)	Owned (1)	Rented (2)
(1)				

About how many acres of each of the following annual forage types do you typically produce?

Corn Silage (acres) (1)

Sudangrass, millet or other summer annual grasses (acres) (2)

Annual Ryegrass (acres) (7)

Annual Legumes (peas, sunhemp, vetch, etc.) (acres) (6)

Small grains like oats, triticale, etc. (acres) (4)

Brassicas (acres) (3)

Some other forage type (name and acres) (5)

Please provide estimated percentages of the composition of your perennial forage fields.

	Stored Forages (1)	Pastured Forages (2)
Grass Only (1)		
Grass-Legume Mix (2)		
Legume Only (3)		



Please select the grass species that are present in your perennial forage fields. Leave any that do not apply blank.

	Stored Forage Stands (1)	Pasture Forage Stands (2)
Bahiagrass (1)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bermudagrass (2)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bluestem (3)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bromegrass (4)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Crabgrass (5)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gamagrass (6)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Festulolium (7)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Johnsongrass (8)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Meadow Fescue (9)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Orchardgrass (10)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Perennial Ryegrass (11)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reed Canarygrass (12)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tall Fescue (13)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Timothy (14)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Kentucky Bluegrass (16)

Some other species (15)



Please select the legume species that are present in your legume-grass perennial forage fields. Leave any that do not apply blank.

	Stored Forage Stands (1)	Pasture Forage Stands (2)
Alfalfa (1)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alsike Clover (2)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Birdsfoot Trefoil (3)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cicer Milkvetch (4)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Crownvetch (5)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kura Clover (6)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Red Clover (7)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sweet Clover (8)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
White Clover (9)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some other species (10)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

End of Block: About your Farm Operation

Start of Block: Perspectives on Farm & Climate



How satisfied are you with these aspects of your forage systems?

	Extremely dissatisfied (13)	Somewhat dissatisfied (14)	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied (15)	Somewhat satisfied (16)	Extremely satisfied (17)	Not Applicable (18)
Diversity of forages in fields (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Types of forages (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pasture yield (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pasture quality (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Stored forage yield (7)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Stored forage quality (8)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Weed control (9)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pest control (14)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Soil fertility program (15)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Legume content (10)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Legume persistence (11)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Storage of stored feed (12)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Adequacy of Irrigation System (16)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Some other aspect (13)



How does your operation's forage system affect the following?

	Severely limiting (1)	Somewhat limiting (2)	Neither limiting nor enhancing (3)	Somewhat enhancing (4)	Significantly enhancing (5)	Not Applicable (6)
Milk production (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cow body condition (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reproduction & calving (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Herd health (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Quality of young stock (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Farm income (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Some other factor (7)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



In the last five years, how frequently have you experienced the following in your forages?

	Never (1)	Sometimes (2)	About half the time (3)	Most of the time (4)	Always (5)	Not applicable (6)
Drought Stress (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lower than average quality (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lower than average yields (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pasture availability challenges (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Significant disease pressure (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Significant insect pest pressure (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Can't meet minimum organic grazing season length (7)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Can't meet minimum organic pasture intake requirement (8)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Unexpected harvest changes due to inclement weather (9)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Winterkill (10)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Significant weed pressure (12)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Some other factor (11)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



Due to erratic weather conditions in the past five years, have you had to employ any of the following strategies?

	Rarely (12)	About half the time (13)	Most of the time (14)	Not applicable (15)
Purchase more forage than usual (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Purchase more grain than usual (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Increased irrigation use (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Remove animals from pasture (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Increase grazing acreage (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Increase annual forage acreage (8)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Re-seed fields more frequently than usual (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Crop insurance (9)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Some other strategy (7)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



For the following farm operations, indicate what, if anything, is limiting your ability to meet your goals. (Select all that apply)

	Lack basic knowledge (1)	Don't know how to implement knowledge (2)	Lack resources to implement knowledge (3)	Not lacking (4)	Not Applicable (5)
Balancing a high forage ration to optimize milk production (1)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Calculating forage yields (tons per acre) (2)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Calculating forage production costs (3)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Identifying forage species (4)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Interpreting forage testing results (5)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Interpreting soil testing results (6)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Managing grazing system to support soil & plant productivity (7)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maximizing forage dry matter intake (8)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Selecting species/mixtures that suit needs (9)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Irrigation system development/expansion (10)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Selecting soil fertility amendments (11)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



How are the following factors impacting your operation's forage program?

	Significantl y limiting (2)	Somewh at limiting (3)	Neither limiting nor enhancin g (1)	Somewh at enhancin g (4)	Significantl y enhancing (5)	Not applicabl e (6)
Price you receive for products (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Equipment costs (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Labor costs (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Seed availability (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Seed quality (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Species/variety/m ix availability (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Severe weather fluctuations (7)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Storage type (8)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Storage capacity (9)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Equipment availability (11)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Labor availability (12)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Custom operator availability (13)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Access to adequate water for irrigation (14)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Some other factor (10)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



How frequently do you use the following tools or resources to support your forage program decision-making?

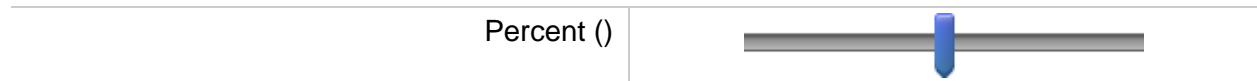
	Never (1)	Sometimes (2)	About half the time (3)	Most of the time (4)	Always (5)	Not applicable (6)
Crop consultant (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Farmer publications (Graze, Progressive Forage, etc.) (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Grazing plan (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Local species/variety performance evaluations (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Nutrient management plan (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Nutritionist (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Organic educational orgs. (PASA, MOSES, NOFA, OEFFA, etc.) (7)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other farmers' experience (8)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Seed company catalog/resources (9)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
University/Extension resources (10)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Veterinarian (11)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Some other resource (12)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Start of Block: About your Dairy Operation

Start of Block: Forage Fertility

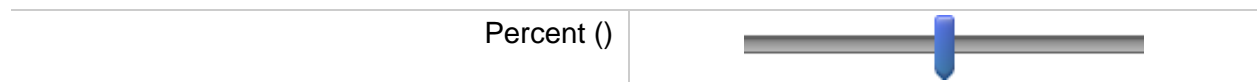
What percentage of your **perennial forage** fields do you typically fertilize each year?

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100



What percentage of your **pasture fields** do you typically fertilize each year?

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100



What factor most contributes to your decision / ability to fertilize or not?

- Access to labor (4)
 - Amount of manure on my farm (5)
 - Time (6)
 - Finances (7)
 - Equipment (8)
 - Availability of local fertility sources (10)
 - Cost of fertility sources (11)
 - Some other factor (9) _____
-



How do you determine fertilizer application rates for your forage fields? (Select all that apply)

- Occasional soil tests (1)
- Frequent soil tests (2)
- Plant tissue tests (3)
- Forage tests (4)
- Visual assessment (5)
- Yield records (6)
- Some other way (7) _____

How frequently do you renovate your forage fields? (Including full reseed and over-seeding)

	Never (4)	Every Year (5)	Every 2-3 Years (6)	Every 3-4 Years (7)	Every 5-6 Years (8)	Every 7-8 Years (9)	Every 9-10 Years (10)
Stored Forage fields (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pasture Forage fields (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



What factors contribute to your forage seed purchase decisions? (Select all that apply)

- Named varieties (1)
 - Specific brands (2)
 - What's available (3)
 - Costs (4)
 - Relationship with vendor (5)
 - University research (6)
 - Consultant recommendation (7)
 - Organic certified (8)
 - Seed company information (10)
 - Disease or Pest resistance (11)
 - Farmer recommendation (13)
 - My experience (12)
 - Some other factor (9)
-

End of Block: Forage Fertility

Start of Block: About your Stored Forage Harvest

How many times per year do you typically harvest your hay fields?

Not Applicable

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Times per year ()



How do you determine when to harvest your perennial forages? (Select all that apply)

- Calendar (1)
 - Crop Maturity (2)
 - When I have Time (3)
 - When the Custom Harvester Arrives (4)
 - Some Other Factor (6)
-

How do you store your forages? (Select all that apply)

- Upright Silo (1)
 - Bunk (2)
 - Ag. bag (3)
 - Wrapped bales (4)
 - Dry bales stored in a building (5)
 - Dry bales stored outside under cover (7)
 - Dry bales stored outside uncovered (8)
 - Some Other Way (6)
-

How frequently do you experience consequences of poor storage conditions?

- Never (1)
 - Very infrequently (2)
 - Occasionally (3)
 - Very frequently (4)
 - Always (5)
 - Not applicable (6)
-

Do you use silage inoculants?

- Yes (1)
 - No (2)
 - Not applicable (3)
-

Do you segregate your inventory of stored forages based on quality?

- Yes (1)
 - No (2)
 - Not applicable (4)
-

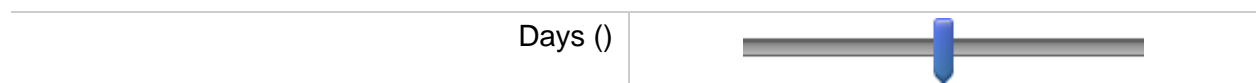
What other information, knowledge or skills related to forage production and management would be most useful to you operation?

End of Block: About your Stored Forage Harvest

Start of Block: About your Grazing Management

In a typical year, what is the length of your grazing season?

120 145 169 194 218 243 267 292 316 341 365



How often do you move the milking herd to a fresh paddock?

- Twice or more daily (1)
 - Once daily (2)
 - Every few days (3)
 - Weekly or less often (4)
-

How do you determine when a pasture is ready to be re-grazed? (Check all that apply)

- Grazing Stick (1)
 - Number of leaves on grass tillers (2)
 - Number of days since last grazing (3)
 - Visual assessment of height/density (4)
 - Some other way (5) _____
-

Approximately what portion of your herd's diet comes from forages in summer and in winter?

- Approximate forage percent in summer (1)

 - Approximate forage percent in winter (2)

-

Approximately what percentage of your stored forage needs do you purchase in a typical year?

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100

()



End of Block: About your Grazing Management

Start of Block: Open Comment

What other information, knowledge or skills related to forage production and management would be most useful to your operation?

End of Block: Open Comment
