

NEBRASKA TECHNICAL NOTE

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

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William E. Reinsch
State Conservation Agronomist

GUIDELINES FOR COLLECTING FORAGE YIELDS
FROM ALFALFA HAYLAND AND PASTURE

Hayland

Identify the soil and area where yield data is to be collected. If area has or will be grazed, an enclosure will be needed to protect the forage from livestock. See Range Technical Note No. 12 for information on building portable enclosures.

At optimum harvest time, clip forage at time and stage suggested in Table 1, Pasture and Hayland Management, 510, Technical Guide, for species harvested.

Tools for harvesting will be a 11.5-inch by 24-inch rectangle. (These are the same tools and technique used in range clipping.) Weigh the material, air dry, in grams, and multiply by 50 to get pounds per acre yield.

For each harvest period, cut or clip the same area. Complete SCS-CO-1, Crop Production Response to Conservation Treatment, for each soil and crop in the study.

It is very important that fields and soils where yield data is to be collected be marked so that several years of data can be taken on the same area. If other methods are used, indicate method used; i.e.,

$$\frac{\text{Number of bales} \times \text{average weight of random sample}}{\text{acres of soil mapping unit}}$$

Pastureland

Identify the soil and area where yield data is to be collected. Enclose areas with fence or a portable enclosure so that livestock are excluded.

At optimum grazing time (height of forage), clip forage at time and stage suggested in Table 1, Pasture and Hayland Management, 510, Technical Guide, for species grazed.

Tools for harvesting will be a 11.5-inch by 24-inch rectangle. (These are the same tools and technique used in range clipping.) Weigh the material, air dry, in grams, and multiply by 50 to get pounds per acre yield.

Clip this same area every 28 days or whenever forage reaches grazing height. Stop clipping approximately 30 days before the first killing frost. After a killing frost, clip pasture area to grazing height. Add the total clipping weights for the year to obtain yield in pounds per acre.

If not possible to set up clipping study, show production in animal unit months of grazing obtained per acre. If possible also show production in pounds of livestock gain per acre.

It is very important that pastures and soil areas where yield data is collected be marked so that several years of data can be taken in the same area. Complete SCS-CO-1, Crop Production Response to Conservation Treatment, for each soil and crop in the study.