

**4-H FORAGE CROP BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT SUMMARY**

Accurate record keeping is an important management consideration for each crop enterprise. Use this form to keep records of field information, crop production inputs, field operations, and costs for a typical forage field on your farm. Contact the County Extension Office for current machinery operating cost information. Estimate yields and machine operations where the record book due date occurs before the completion of the crop year.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Club: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Forage (Alfalfa, Alfalfa Grass, Grass, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

General description of field location: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Field Information**

Size: \_\_\_\_\_ Acres

Primary Soil Type(s):  
 (From County Soil Survey, e.g. Lomira Silt Loam)

Topography and Slope:  
 (e.g. hilly, rolling, flat, 3-6% slope, etc.)

Previous Crop:

Soil Test Information:      Year of Test:

Sample Number	pH	Available Phosphorus (ppm)	Available Potassium (ppm)	Organic Matter (%)
—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—

**ESTABLISHMENT INFORMATION:**

Date of Seeding: Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Month: \_\_\_\_\_

Method of Establishment: Companion Crop Direct

Type of Companion Crop:

How was companion crop harvested? Silage Grain  
 Seed Variety(ies):  
 Was seed inoculated? Yes No  
 Was seed fungicide treated? Yes No

**Establishment Costs:**

	Description	Units per Acre	\$ Per Unit	\$ Per Acre
<b>Seed</b>		lbs.		
		lbs.		
		lbs.		
<b>Fertilizer</b>		lbs.		
		lbs.		
		lbs.		
<b>Chemicals</b>				
		<b>Machine Width (ft)</b>	<b>Acres/Hour</b>	
<b>Tillage and Seeding Machine Operations</b>				
<b>TOTAL ESTABLISHMENT COST PER ACRE:</b>				

Establishment costs are usually spread over the "life" of the forage stand.

Total Establishment Cost \_\_\_\_\_ ÷ Years of Normal Forage Stand \_\_\_\_\_ = (A) \_\_\_\_\_ \$/Acre

**FORAGE PRODUCTION COSTS:**

				Total \$/Acre
Fertilizer				
Chemicals				
		Machine Width (ft)	Acres/Hour	
Machine Operations				
1st Cut				
2nd Cut				
3rd Cut				
4th Cut				
<b>Total Current Year Production Costs</b>				<b>(B)</b>
<b>Land Cost (Average Area Cash Rent)</b>				<b>(C)</b>

<b>Establishment Costs</b>	<b>(A)</b>
<b>Total Cost Per Acre (A + B + C)</b>	<b>(D)</b>

**PRODUCTION YIELDS:**

Accurate forage yields are difficult to determine. Several methods are suggested:

1. Weigh a "typical" loaded wagon and multiply the number of wagon loads taken off the field at each cutting by the weight/load. Adjust to dry matter (total weight x % dry matter). 1 Ton = 2000 lbs. Divide dry matter tons by field acreage.
2. Assume chopped forage weighs 16-19 lbs (50-60% moisture) per cubic foot (ft<sup>3</sup>). Determine ft<sup>3</sup> of the "filled" area in a forage wagon. (CAUTION: This likely will not be the same as the total inside area of the forage wagon.) Allow for space typically not filled with forage. When the estimated weight per load is determined, proceed as in "1".
3. Collect and weigh five foot sections of forage windrow between mowing and harvest, convert weight to tons/acre. Contact the County Extension Office for details on this method.

	Date	Estimated Dry Matter Yield/Acre
<b>1st Cut</b>		<b>Tons/Acre</b>
<b>2nd Cut</b>		
<b>3rd Cut</b>		
<b>4th Cut</b>		
<b>Total Dry Matter Yield/Acre</b>		<b>(E) Tons</b>

**Total Production Cost Per Ton (D ÷ E) = \$**