

WHAT FORAGES ARE SAFE FOR DIFFERENT ANIMALS

	Legumes									Cool-Season Grasses						Warm-Season Grasses				Broadleaves		Small Grains	Haylage/Silage	
	Alfalfa	Red Clover	White Clover	Alsike Clover	Berseem Clover	Sweet Clover	Birdsfoot/Trefoil	Hairy Vetch	Lespedeza	Perennial Ryegrass	Orchardgrass	Timothy	EF Tall Fescue	Bromegrass	Kentucky/Bluegrass	Reeds/Canarygrass	Milo/Forage Sorghum	Sudangrass	Millets	Teffgrass	Brassicas			Chicory
Lactating Dairy Cattle	●●	●●	●●	●	●●	NS	●	NS	●	●●	●●	●●	●	●	●●	●	●●	●	●	●	●	●	●●	●●
Beef Cattle, Dry	●●	●●	●●	●	●●	NS	●●	NS	●	●●	●●	●●	●●	●●	●●	●●	●●	●●	●●	●●	●	●	●●	●●
Horses	●	●	●	●	●	NS	●	NS	●	●●	●●	●●	●●	●●	●●	●	NS	NS	●	●●	NS	●	●	●/NS
Sheep	●●	●●	●●	●	●	NS	●●	●	●	●●	●●	●●	●●	●●	●●	●●	EO	●	●	●	EO	EO	●●	●/NS
Goats	●●	●●	●●	●	●●	NS	●●	●	●●	●●	●●	●●	●●	●●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●●	●●

**ideal, very safe; *not ideal but manageable; EO = only use in emergency situations; NS = not safe

Clovers for Horses	=	Mold on clovers (usually in hot and humid conditions) can trigger slobbers in horses, lasting usually 2-4 weeks depending on the weather. Clovers' rapid growth can cause elevated sugar content, leading to colic and founder to horses that are primarily pastured. Horses consuming clovers infected with black blotch disease occasionally develop skin issues associated with liver damage.
Hairy Vetch for Cattle/Horse	=	Grazing hairy vetch can cause dermatitis, most likely to occur when seeds are consumed or when vetch makes up most of the pasture mix; higher risk in pasture vs. hay or haylage.
Which Legumes are Non-Bloat Forming	=	Common legumes that do not cause bloat are berseem and rose clover, birdsfoot trefoil, sanfoin, and cicer milkvetch.
Difference with Alsike Clover in General	=	Alsike "toxicity" is usually associated with horses, but all animals that graze large amounts of wet alsike clover may be affected – commonly mild colic & diarrhea. "Sunburn" can also occur when parts of animals are in contact with the wet forage (lower legs & mouth) – more of an issue in lightly pigmented animals or newly shorn sheep.
Sweet Clover Poisoning	=	Sweet clover contains a chemical that prevents normal blood clotting, resulting in hematomas beneath the skin, hemorrhaging, and respiratory problems. It's bitter taste normally prevents some animals (like horses) from finding it palatable enough to consume.
Tannins in Trefoil	=	Trefoil is high in tannins, which reduce bloat potential. However, tannins have shown to make protein more unavailable to the animal, lowering overall forage quality. Michigan State research indicates grazing birdsfoot trefoil may help control some gastrointestinal parasites in sheep and goats.
Forage vs. Browse for Goats	=	Goats will often prefer browse and weeds just as much as grasses (10-15% better gain than with grasses alone), largely due to their increased digestibility. Goats prefer plants in the vegetative stage and will select the beneficial parts of forage plants better than sheep, horses, or cattle.
Managing Brassicas in Cattle Diets	=	Feeding 100% brassicas can lead to disorders (because they are so digestible and low in fiber). Consider only feeding 1/3 to 1/2 of the livestock diet to brassicas. Introduce cattle slowly and never turn them out hungry. Provide plenty of extra fiber (grass or grass hay).
Haylage/Silage to Horses	=	Because horses cannot belch like cattle, the gases released from consumed haylage can cause problems. Small grain haylage fed to horses can often result in "grain overload" – leading to bloating and laminitis.
Sorghums for Horses	=	Sorghum contain cyanogenic glycosides, leading to increased risk of chronic cyanide poisoning - causing both urinary tract diseases and aborted pregnancies.
Managing Fescue Endophytes	=	Fescue toxicity in horses are related to poor reproduction. Mares consuming endophyte-infested tall fescue suffer from prolonged gestation, resulting in immature foals with reduced immunity. Cattle infected with endophytes suffer from constricting blood vessels that lead to heat stress = cattle eat less, gain less, and breed less. USDA research shows that adding clover actually reduces some of the negative effects cattle see when consuming the infected plants (i.e. lessening the effects of blood vessel constriction).

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