Potential of annual forages in the Northern Great Plains

Emily Meccagea, Patrick M. Carrb, Maryse Bourgaultc, Kent McVayd and Darrin Boss
e

a Extension Forage Specialist/Assistant Professor, Department of Animal and Range Sciences
b Superintendent/Associate Professor, Central Agricultural Research Center
c Assistant Professor, Northern Agricultural Research Center (NARC)
d Extension Cropping Systems Specialist/Associate Professor, Southern Agricultural Research Center
e Interim Department Head/NARC Superintendent, Department of Research Centers, Montana State University

Annual forages are a good option for many farmers and ranchers in the Northern Great Plains, particularly when traditional forage sources are in short supply. Not only do they provide increased production per acre compared with perennial forages, but they also provide a quality forage source for livestock. While there are potential nutritional benefits to be gained by including non-traditional species in the forage mix, nitrates and other potential toxins need to be considered.