

**Value of Standing Forages**

Alfalfa, Clover, Wheat, Orchardgrass/Bromegrass, Fescue, Corn Silage and Grain Sorghum Silage

University of Illinois  
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Suggested values of standing forage crops are presented in the table below. Prices are quoted on a per ton, as-fed, basis. Price per acre depends upon the yield and is not provided here. Buyer assumes all harvesting costs and quality risk.

Forage	\$ / Ton	¢ / Lb. Dry Matter
<b>Alfalfa:</b>		
Hay (85% DM)	\$40.00	2.4 ¢
Haylage (45% DM)	\$21.50	2.1 ¢
<b>Clover:</b>		
Hay (85% DM)	\$26.00	1.5 ¢
<b>Wheat:</b>		
Hay (85% DM)	\$20.00	1.2 ¢
Wheatlage (40% DM)	\$ 9.50	1.2 ¢
<b>Orchardgrass/Bromegrass:</b>		
Hay (85% DM)	\$30.00	1.7 ¢
<b>Fescue:</b>		
Hay (85% DM)	\$20.00	1.2 ¢
<b>Corn/Grain Sorghum:</b>		
Silage (35% DM)	\$15.20	2.2 ¢

Calculations are based on the following hay and grain prices and harvest expenses:

Alfalfa	\$70/T	Orchardgrass	\$60/T	Shelled Corn	\$2.20/bu
Clover	\$56/T	Bromegrass	\$60/T	Hay Harvest Cost	\$30/T
Wheat Hay	\$50/T	Fescue	\$50/T	Silage Harvest Cost	\$6/T

Use the following formulas to calculate standing value of forage crops:

**For Hay Crops:**

**Determine:**

Current market value of hay per ton \_\_\_\_\_  
 Harvest costs per ton \_\_\_\_\_

**Formula:**

Current market value of hay per ton \_\_\_\_\_  
 Less harvest cost per ton \_\_\_\_\_  
 Equals standing value per ton \_\_\_\_\_

Example for hay:		Your Numbers
Current market for first cut alfalfa	\$70.00	_____
Less harvest cost per ton	<u>(\$30.00)</u>	_____
Equals standing value	\$40.00 per ton	_____

**For Corn Silage:**

**Determine:**

Total tons of silage per acre \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bushels of corn per ton of silage \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Estimated grain yield divided by tons per acre)

Example: 120 bushels corn divided by 20 tons per acre yield equals 6 bushels per ton of silage.

Current per bushel price of corn \_\_\_\_\_

**Formula:**

Bushels of corn per ton of silage times current price of corn \_\_\_\_\_  
 Plus fertilizer replacement per ton of silage<sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_  
 Equals standing value per ton of silage \_\_\_\_\_

Example for silage:		Your Numbers
6 bushels corn X \$2.20 =	\$13.20	_____
Plus fertilizer replacement <sup>2</sup> =	<u>2.56</u>	_____
Equals standing value of silage	\$15.76 per ton	_____

1 Based on Illinois Agronomy Handbook P & K removal per ton of corn silage.

2 120 bu. corn silage removes 64 lbs. of P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> and 168 lbs. of K<sub>2</sub>O @ \$.24/lb. and \$.12/lb. respectively. Yield is assumed at 20 tons per acre.



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