

AG. BUSINESS
DAIRY ENTERPRISE

C. make up bulk of cows diet(40-60% of diet)

D. **factors influencing quality of forage**

1. maturity
 - a. less protein and energy
 - b. cows eat less
2. moisture content
 - a. effects feed intake of cow
 - b. must know nutrient value
3. method of storage
 - a. **silage**- material produced in a controlled anerobic fermentation of product high in moisture(>60%)
 - i. **anerobic**-oxygen limiting atmosphere
 - ii. **additives**-perservatives and nutritional additives
 - b. **haylage**- low moisture crop in air tight silo(45-55%)
 - c. **small grain** - oat or wheat
 - i. double cropping
 - ii. must have long growing season
 - iii. NEVER SOLE SOURCE OF FORAGE TO HERD : WHY?
- low in protein and calcium, energy and palatibility

E. Alfalfa

1. excellant nutritional value
2. high protein and mineral content
3. **Disadvantages of alfalfa**
 - a. high in moisture causes silo leaks
 - b. total forage intake is less when alfalfa is only roughage fed compared to dry hay and other grass mixtures

F. Corn Silage

1. **Advantages**
 - a. high yields of energy/ acre
 - b. minimal labor demand
 - c. single forage program - less investment in equipment
 - d. preserves well
 - e. highly palatable
 - f. works well with alfalfa
2. **Management tips**
 - a. avoid feeding to calves < 4-6 mos. of age
 - b. limit C.S. dry cows to 35-40 lbs.if it's only source of forage
 - c. 1/2 C.S - 1/2 legume grass
 - d. high fiber grain mixture to maintain fiber levels

G. Roughage Problems

1. molds - reduce intake, abortions, cystic ovaries
2. nitrates- cause death if very severe
3. grass tetany - magnesium deficiency
 - a. **Symptoms**
- nervounesses