



## **2016 BALAGE NEWSLETTER FROM MYERS FARM**

**January 27, 2017**

### **2016 Summary**

“To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven.” Farmers are more cognizant about the weather than many non-farmers due to their success or failure being determined by factors totally out of their control. 2016 was no different.

We started with a cold, and very wet spring. This turned to dry second and third cuttings for us, especially the 3<sup>rd</sup> cutting. There was generally enough moisture for a decent 4<sup>th</sup> cutting, but then it turned dry again, and there wasn't any 5<sup>th</sup> cutting this year. It was a long time since we didn't harvest any 5<sup>th</sup> cutting alfalfa.

We strive for perfection. Our goal is that all of our alfalfa balage will have a relative feed value in excess of 150, and a protein content in excess of 20%. That goal was achieved except for about 10 bales of 4<sup>th</sup> cutting.

We are a family farm which works hard to have repeat business from year to year charging a fair price while producing excellent quality. We told the technician taking the samples what cuttings are where. He chose the bales for the samples. These results are as close to field run results as can possibly be provided for you.

### **New for 2016 – Forage Oat/Forage Pea Balage:**

Our main farm enterprise is producing high quality alfalfa balage. Corn and soybeans have been rotational crops grown primarily to rotate out of alfalfa and then the fields are returned to alfalfa production after one year of each. This year, we seeded oats for small grain as a rotational crop, and then we seeded a special forage oat/forage pea mixture. It was very dry during most of the growing season for that. We took three different forage samples.

[Forage Test 1 - Forage Oats and Peas](#)

[Forage Test 2 - Forage Oats and Peas](#)

[Forage Test 3 - Forage Oats and Peas](#)

### **2016 Alfalfa Forage Tests**

(Holding the control key down while clicking will open each test in a new tab.)

[2016 First Cutting Alfalfa](#)

[2016 Third Cutting Alfalfa - Test 1](#)

[2016 Fourth Cutting Alfalfa - Test 1](#)

[2016 Second Cutting Alfalfa](#)

[2016 Third Cutting Alfalfa - Test 2](#)

[2016 Fourth Cutting Alfalfa - Test 2](#)

If you are looking for high quality feed, we would look forward to being of service to you.