

# What is Forage?

Grasses and legumes fed to animals in the form of:



## Pasture:

Cows harvest feed themselves by going out and eating grasses or legumes that grow in pastures.

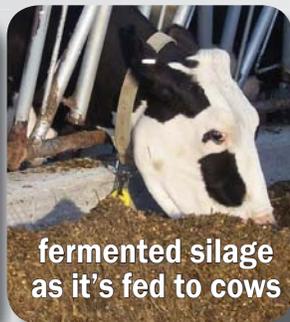


## Hay:

Farmers cut grasses and legumes in the field, let them dry, and then bale them for feeding to animals at a later date.



freshly cut crop  
before being  
put into silo



fermented silage  
as it's fed to cows

## Silage:

Farmers cut grasses and legumes, chop them while still moist, and put them in silos to ferment so they can be preserved (like the canned foods we eat).

Forages are especially important for ruminant animals like cows. They are the major source of the fiber which cows need to stay healthy. Forages, especially legumes, provide lots of protein, too.

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U.S. Dairy Forage Research Center/USDA-Agricultural Research Service

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