

Forage and Pasture Resources for the Michigan Horse Industry in 2020

Kim Cassida, MSU Forage and Cover Crop Specialist (cassida@msu.edu)

MSU Forage Connection Website <https://forage.msu.edu/>: Information hub for forage and pasture extension and research relevant to Michigan. All information is vetted before linking to ensure that it is valid advice for Michigan.

MSU Forage Variety Testing: Public testing of alfalfa, grass, and clover varieties for hay production or grazing in Michigan. Reports are posted annually on Forage Connection Website and published in *Michigan Farmer*.

MSUE Bulletins and Factsheets: Downloads available from Forage Connection website on the Extension page.

- [Recommended Hay and Pasture Forages for Michigan](#) (Cassida & Kaatz, 2019, MSU E3309).
- [Low-Cost Renovation Practices for Perennial Pastures and Hayland in Michigan](#) (Cassida et al, 2019, MSU E-3310)
- [Frost Seeding: An Effective Forage Establishment Practice for Michigan](#) (Cassida & Lindquist, 2018, MSU E2185)
- [Steps in Successful No-till Establishment of Forages](#) (Leep et al., 2003)
- [Rotational Grazing for Michigan Horses](#) (Guthrie et al. 2014, MSU E3200)
- [Growing Hay & Pasture for Michigan Horses](#) (Leep et al., 2008, MSU E2305)
- [Toxic Plants in Pasture & Hay for Michigan Horses](#) (Shane, 2008, MSU E3060)
- [Buying Horse Hay](#) (Undersander et al., 2002, A3775)
- MSU Weed Control Guide –MSU Extension Bulletin E424, updated annually
- [Lime for Michigan Soils](#) (Warncke et al., 2010)
- [Nutrient Recommendations for Field Crops in Michigan](#) (Warncke et al., 2009)
- [Sampling Soils for Fertilizer and Lime Recommendations](#) (Warncke, 2000, MSU E0498)
- *And many more*

MSU Extension Programming: See MSU Events (<https://www.canr.msu.edu/academics/events/>) or Forage Connection Events page (<https://forage.msu.edu/events/>)

- Great Lakes Forage and Grazing Conference, annually in March
- Grazing Schools: learn how to manage pasture for persistence and profitability.
- Pasture walks
- Webinars on pasture and forage management

Other Resources

- [My Horse University, https://www.myhorseuniversity.com/](https://www.myhorseuniversity.com/)
- [MSUE Hay Seller's List](http://web2.canr.msu.edu/hay/) – directory of Michigan hay and straw producers. <http://web2.canr.msu.edu/hay/>
- [MSU Soil and Plant Nutrient Laboratory](http://www.spnl.msu.edu/) – MSU service lab for testing soil and plant nutrient content, as well as forage quality, <http://www.spnl.msu.edu/>
- [MSU Diagnostic Services](https://pestid.msu.edu/) – helps identify plant pests, weeds, and diseases as the first step in control, <https://pestid.msu.edu/>
- [Michigan Enviroweather](http://www.enviroweather.msu.edu/homeMap.php) - local weather information related to forage production, <http://www.enviroweather.msu.edu/homeMap.php>
- The Forage and Grazing Group of MSUE Specialists and Educators
 - Dr. Kim Cassida, Forage & Cover Crop Specialist, cassida@msu.edu
 - Dr. Erin Burns, Weed Specialist, burnser@msu.edu
 - Phil Kaatz, Forage Educator, kaatz@msu.edu
 - Tom Guthrie, Horse Educator, guthri19@msu.edu
 - Kable Thurlow, Grazing Educator, thurlowk@msu.edu
- USDA-NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service), <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/mi/>
- MAEAP (MI Agricultural Assurance Verification Program), volunteer program to assist farms with preventing or minimizing agricultural pollution risks, <http://www.maeap.org/>
- Michigan Conservation Districts, “local providers of natural resource management services that help our citizens conserve their lands and our environment” <http://macd.org/>
- Michigan Forage Council – forage and pasture commodity group that help set industry priorities for research and education in Michigan. <http://michiganforagecouncil.org/>