

From: "midwestforage@comcast.net%inter2" <midwestforage@comcast.net>
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Email: midwestforage@comcast.net

FirstName: Beth

LastName: Nelson

Address1: 4630 Churchill St.

Address2: Suite #1

City: St. Paul

State: Minnesota

zipcode: 55126

Question1:

Question2:

Question3:

Question4: Good afternoon. My name is Beth Nelson and I am the President of the Midwest Forage Association. We represent forage producers across the states of Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois Nebraska, and Indiana.

Forages represent crops which, we believe, are under-recognized when it comes to the farm bill and under-appreciated when it comes to the environment. Not many people realize that the production of forages ranks third, behind only corn and soybeans, in terms of cash value in the U.S. But since much of that production is consumed by livestock and never leaves the farm, forages, and its contributions to agriculture, tend to be overshadowed by other program crops such as wheat, corn, soybeans, and minor oilseeds.

Forages are a critical component of animal agriculture, an industry which is vital to maintaining agricultural diversity and contributes more than \$60 billion in farm sales annually to the nation's economy.

Forages are among the most environmentally friendly sustainable crops. They reduce soil erosion, pesticide usage and fertilizer usage.

They also reduce our dependence on fossil fuels. In fact, one crop of moderately thin alfalfa plowed down provides the equivalent of up to 150 lbs of nitrogen per acre, enough to replace almost all of the fertilizer required by the following corn crop.

Therefore, we believe strongly that the crafting of a new farm bill offers a unique opportunity to provide greater incentive for utilizing the environmental and conservational benefits of forages, and that forages need parity with other leading crops.

Question5:

Question6: