Hay Harvest Timing Guide

A guide to deciding when to harvest hay, balancing yield, quality and weather, for hay producers planning cuttings. Use it as a reference in the field or office, and adapt the steps to your own operation.

Farm / unit: _____ Date: _____ By: _____

1. Identify forage species and stage
2. Check plant maturity
3. Review quality goals for the animals
4. Watch the weather window
5. Plan equipment and labor
6. Consider regrowth and stand health
7. Record cutting date and conditions
8. Test hay after baling

YOUR NOTES

TIP Check your extension office's local advice on stage of growth, and write down what you chose each cutting.