

FIND FREEDOM IN A **FLEXIBLE** HARVEST SCHEDULE



THE CUTTING-EDGE FLEXIBILITY OF TRAITED ALFALFA COULD BE A GAME CHANGER FOR FORAGE GROWERS.

Alfalfa is an outstanding feed ingredient, even irreplaceable for many growers and producers. But managing it can be both time consuming and labor intensive. From equipment repairs to weather events, unforeseen challenges can disrupt cutting schedules when growers least expect it, and it can be difficult to adjust harvest timing without compromising production goals.

In a perfect world, alfalfa quality wouldn't decline with time, and growers and producers would be free to enjoy all the crop's redeemable rewards. Fortunately, one forage genetics leader is all in on addressing these challenges to make flexibility a reality.

GENETIC POWERHOUSE IS KEEPING ALFALFA IN THE GAME

There are many valuable reasons to keep alfalfa in the rotation. Among these reasons are the innovative efforts of Forage Genetics International (FGI). FGI is a leader in genetic research, variety developments and cutting-edge technologies with the common goal of advancing alfalfa with grower solutions. One of these cutting-edge solutions is HarvXtra® Alfalfa.

By pioneering HarvXtra Alfalfa trait technology, FGI has changed the relationship between forage quality and stage of maturity, allowing growers more flexibility with less concern for losing forage quality or yield potential.

WIDENING THE CUTTING WINDOW

For years, forage growers have been bound to a certain cutting window, no matter their personal plans, weather conditions or other conflicts. But with trait technology designed to maintain alfalfa quality, growers are freed from the stress of strict harvest timelines.

"Flexibility is provided by the trait's ability to widen the cutting window," explains Dan Undersander, former University of Wisconsin Extension forage research agronomist. "This gives growers the option to maintain their normal harvest schedule for higher quality forage, or delay harvest for [up to] 10 days for increased yield potential without sacrificing forage quality, compared to conventional alfalfa at the same stage of maturity."

THE GAME-CHANGING TRAIT

Control over cutting schedules opens the door for significant increases in the overall value of growing alfalfa. Growers can meet business objectives while reaping the rewards of increased harvest flexibility and being relieved of the obligation to bend their lives around their alfalfa.

Wisconsin farmer Reily Lepianka plants HarvXtra Alfalfa to feed his family's dairy cows. "We try to feed as much alfalfa as possible. And with HarvXtra, we cut less often. It saves us a lot," Reily says.

Plus, it gives them the priceless privilege of harvesting on a timeline that works for the family and the full operation.

"If there's bad weather, we can let it sit for another week [with no consequences]. With conventional alfalfa varieties, forage quality would drop considerably. HarvXtra totally changed the way we make hay because we don't have to be tied down to a certain rotation," Reily affirms. "With HarvXtra alfalfa, that pressure is gone, and we can cut whenever we think is right without sacrificing quality."

With this advancement in flexibility comes freedom for alfalfa growers to work around weather, life events and other crops to achieve the quality and yield their operation needs, along with the freedom to cultivate memories and enjoy the moments that matter.