

# **Alfalfa Seeding Rate Effects on Forage Quality. (C06-shewmaker220022-Poster)**

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## **Abstract:**

Recommendations for alfalfa seeding rates vary from 9 to 22 kg/ha. Higher rates are promoted because they provide a level of insurance for a good stand when seedling establishment environments are less than ideal, an increased stem density produces smaller stems resulting in more desirable forage quality, and a denser stand is able to resist weed invasion. The objectives were to evaluate stem density, yield, and characterize forage quality of alfalfa seeded at a series of rates. 'Vernal', 'Trophy', 'Rampage', and 'Robust' representing fall dormancy ratings of 2 through 5 were sown with a press-wheel drill at 9, 13, 18, and 22 kg pure live seed/ha. Seeding rate did not affect stem density, dry matter yield, or forage quality. We conclude that any seeding rate for alfalfa between 9 and 22 kg/ha when sown with a press-wheel drill will produce an adequate stand with proper management.

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