NORTH DAKOTA– Hybrid Rye Variety Trial

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Hybrid rye has gotten attention in the northern Great Plains as a potential high-quality forage for silage or haylage. Cereal rye acreage, as a cover crop, has increased in ND. It fits well in rotation before soybean, but can also be used as a spring forage. Project objective – evaluate potential forage yield of hybrid rye varieties in the Red River Valley. Variety trials were conducted over two seasons in Fargo (2017-'18; 2018-'19) in a randomized complete block design with four replicates. Seeding rate was 800,000 live seeds/ac. Trials were fertilized in the spring with 80 lbs/ac N. Forage was harvested at soft dough in 2018 and milk stage in 2019. Heavy clay soils waterlogged in the spring, forming ice sheets that reduced stands. Results indicated although hybrid rye has potential in many areas, in the Red River Valley, yield was similar to cereal rye. Forage yield ranged 3.04-3.95 tons/ac in 2018 and 3.02-4.73 tons/ac in 2019; CP, 8-10%. Wisconsin reports show hybrid rye harvested at soft dough stage at 5.0-6.0 tons/ac. Although ND yields were lower, rye is the only fall-planted annual forage that survives in the Fargo area, so getting 3.5-4.5 tons/ac is promising for those who need a high-quality forage early in the summer. It is important farmers know that location matters and hybrid rye does not perform the same in every environment. Check variety trials near your location and average at least three years of results to estimate yield potential for your farm.

Table 1. Forage yield of hybrid rye and cereal rye varieties.

Variety	2018	2019
	---Tons/ac---	
KWS Progas	3.15	3.26
KWS Propower	3.29	3.51
KWS Bono	3.12	3.34
KWS Dolaro	3.41	3.06
Brasseto	3.95	3.02
ND Dylan	3.61	3.92
KWS Serafino	-	3.74
KWS Trebiano	-	4.73