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Harvesting Soybeans for Hay? Consider Prior Use of Chemicals

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With the entire state experiencing moderate to severe drought conditions, many North Carolina livestock producers are short on hay and are seeking alternative sources of feed for their winter needs. There are many options. One is to harvest drought-damaged crops and/or crop residues that would not normally be used as cattle feed. Growers need to understand the nutritional value the damaged crops and/or crop residues, and they need to know about any potentially damaging chemical residues.

Harvesting soybeans for hay is one possible alternative. Currently, many soybean fields have been damaged to the point that they may produce very low bean yields, but the forage yield may still be significant. A grower could harvest such fields for hay so they still have something to can market. It is important to harvest soybeans before leaves start to yellow to produce an adequate quality feed. Soybean hay is about 12 to 15 percent protein and 55 to 60 percent TDN, so it makes a very good feed for brood cows. Before harvesting soybeans for hay, the grower should consult with their Extension Agent and their crop insurance agent so they fully understand crop insurance assessment procedures.

An important consideration is that growers must review the label restrictions for pesticides used on the crop. When soybeans are planted specifically for hay, the grower uses only chemicals that allow use of the crop for hay. Growers wishing to harvest drought-damaged soybeans for hay should check the label of any chemical they have used for restrictions on feeding. Many herbicide labels have restrictions that do not allow feeding of hay from treated soybeans. Most herbicides have restrictions that you should understand.

We have had many inquiries about the use of the herbicide glyphosate (Roundup and many other brands), because over 80 percent of the state's acreage is in Roundup-Ready beans. There is a 14-day restriction between last application of glyphosate and harvesting soybeans for hay. In many cases, glyphosate is tank mixed with other chemicals that have a restriction, so keep that in mind. Chlorimuron ethyl (Classic) or flumiclorac pentyl ester (Resource) are commonly used in tank mixes, and both have labels that say do not harvest and feed for forage. Cloransulam-methyl (FirstRate) is another common tank mix. Clorasulam-methyl has a 14-day waiting period.

Chemicals that have no restrictions listed on the label mentioning hay feeding include: pendimethalin (Prowl and generic brands), s-metolachlor (Dual Magnum, Dual II Magnum, and generic brands), sethoxydim (Post, Post-plus) and trifluralon (Treflan and generic brands). Other chemicals that have a waiting time include: bentazon (Basagran; 30 days), metribuzin (Sencor; 40 days pre-emergence, 70 days post-emergence directed), and 2-4DB (numerous brands; 60 days).

Most other chemicals have labels that specifically state that hay should not be fed. For more information on feeding management, and help with understanding chemicals and label restrictions contact your Cooperative Extension Agent.

Herbicide Restrictions for Soybean Hay

Alan C. York, Weed Science Extension Specialist, Compiled August 10, 2007

| Brand names | Active ingredient(s) | Can soybean hay be fed to livestock? |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| Acumen | pendimethalin | YES |
| Aim | carfentrazone | NO |
| Alachlor | alachlor | NO |
| Arrow | clethodim | NO |
| Assure II | quizalofop | NO |
| Authority First | sulfentrazone + cloransulam | NO |
| Axiom | flufenacet + metribuzin | NO |
| Basagran | bentazon | YES; 30 days after last application |
| Blazer | acifluorfen | NO |
| Boundary | s-metolachlor + metribuzin | YES; 40 days after last application |
| Brawl, Brawl II | s-metolachlor | YES; 30 days after last application |
| Canopy | metribuzin + chlorimuron | NO |
| Canopy EX | chlorimuron + tribenuron | YES |
| Charger Basic | s-metolachlor | YES; 30 days after last application |
| Cinch | s-metolachlor | YES; 30 days after last application |
| Classic | chlorimuron | NO |
| Clethodim | clethodim | NO |
| Cobra | lactofen | NO |
| Command | clomazone | NO |
| Define | flufenacet | NO |
| Dual II, Dual II Magnum | s-metolachlor | YES; 30 days after last application |
| Establish | dimethenamid | NO |
| Extreme | glyphosate + imazethapyr | NO |

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| Firestorm Preplant or preemergence Post-directed | paraquat | YES; do not cut hay before R3 stage of soybean NO |
| Firstrate | cloransulam | YES; 14 days after last application |
| Flexstar | fomesafen | NO |

| Brand names | Active ingredient(s) | Can soybean hay be fed to livestock? |
|---|-----------------------------|--|
| Fusilade DX | fluazifop | NO |
| Fusion | fluazifop + fenoxaprop | NO |
| Gangster | flumioxazin + cloransulam | NO |
| Glyphosate (numerous brands) | glyphosate | YES; 14 days after last application |
| Gramoxone Preplant, preemergence Post-directed | paraquat | YES; do not cut hay before R3 stage of soybean NO |
| Harmony GT | thifensulfuron | NO |
| Intensity, Intensity One | clethodim | NO |
| Intro | alachlor | NO |
| Linex | linuron | NO |
| Linuron | linuron | NO |
| Lorox | linuron | NO |
| Medal | s-metolachlor | YES; 30 days after last application |
| Me-Too-Lachlor | metolachlor | NO |
| Metri DF Preplant, preemergence Post-directed | metribuzin | YES; 40 days after application YES; 70 days after application |
| Metribuzin Preplant, preemergence Post-directed | metribuzin | YES; 40 days after application YES; 70 days after application |
| Micro-Tech | alachlor | NO |
| Outlook | dimethenamid | NO |
| Parallel, Parallel PCS | metolachlor | NO |
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|---|---------------------------|--|
| Parazone Preplant, preemergence Post-directed | paraquat | YES; do not cut hay before R3 stage of soybean NO |
| Pendant | pendimethalin | YES |
| Pendimax | pendimethalin | YES |
| Poast, Poast Plus | sethoxydim | YES |
| Prefix (co-pack) | s-metolachlor + fomesafen | NO |
| Prowl, Prowl H2O | pendimethalin | YES |

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| Brand names | Active ingredient(s) | Can soybean hay be fed to livestock? |
|---|------------------------------|--|
| Pursuit | imazethapyr | NO |
| Python | flumetsulam | NO |
| Raptor | imazamox | YES |
| Reflex | fomesafen | NO |
| Resource | flumiclorac-pentyl | NO |
| Scepter | imazaquin | NO |
| Select, Select Max | clethodim | NO |
| Sencor Preplant, preemergence Post-directed | metribuzin | YES; 40 days after application YES; 70 days after application |
| Sequence Applied preemergence Applied postemergence | glyphosate + s-metolachlor | YES; 30 days after application NO |
| Sonalan | ethalfluralin | NO |
| Sonic | sulfentrazone + cloransulam | NO |
| Stalwart | metolachlor | NO |
| Stealth | pendimethalin | YES |
| Storm | acifluorfen + bentazon | NO |
| Synchrony XP | chlorimuron + thifensulfuron | NO |
| Targa | quizalofop | NO |
| Treflan | trifluralin | YES |
| Trifluralin | trifluralin | YES |
| Trigger | Clethodim | NO |
| Trilin | trifluralin | YES |
| Trust | trifluralin | YES |
| Ultra Blazer | acifluorfen | NO |

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|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Valor XLT | flumioxazin + chlorimuron | NO |
| Valor SX | flumioxazin | NO |
| Volunteer | clethodim | NO |
| 2,4-DB (numerous brands) | 2,4-DB | YES; 60 days after application |

For more information on feeding management and help with understanding chemicals and label restrictions, contact your Cooperative Extension agent.