

2026 Dryland Winter Forage Variety Performance Trial at Rocky Ford

Brand/Source	Variety	Forage Species ^a	Dry Matter Yield ^b ton/acre	Moisture % at harvest	Harvest Growth Stage	Gram Harvest		Forage Quality ^c								
						Yield lb/acre	Test Weight lb/bu	Dry		percent						
								RFQ	CP	Matter	aNDFom	NDFD30	TDN	NEL	NEG	Milk/Ton
TriCal Superior Forage	TriCal Exp 209	TriT	7.3	58.2	Soft Dough	366	49.7	122	9.6	97.8	41	37	68	70	43	1835
Univ. of California-Davis	UCT 2501	TriT	6.5	62.7	Soft Dough	728	52.4	108	7.3	98.4	54	56	61	63	34	2749
NuHorizon Genetics	NT21436	TriT	6.2	58.1	Soft Dough	377	53.5	70	6.5	97.9	60	44	56	57	27	2192
TriCal Superior Forage	TriCal Exp 554	TriT	5.6	58.4	Soft Dough	296	50.5	83	6.9	98.4	53	42	59	60	31	2314
TriCal Superior Forage	TriCal Exp 938	TriT	5.6	58.7	Hard Dough	342	52.1	88	8.5	98.3	52	43	61	62	34	2508
Various	MTF1435	W	5.6	58.9	Soft Dough	238	56.1	89	7.7	98.9	52	42	60	61	32	2509
Univ. of California-Davis	UCT 2502	TriT	5.6	61.2	Soft Dough	710	52.6	103	8.0	98.2	50	47	62	63	35	2583
PlainsGold	Ray	W	5.5	60.0	Soft Dough	248	56.5	99	8.3	98.2	50	51	61	63	34	2662
Montana State Univ.	MT Cash	W	5.4	56.3	Hard Dough	215	58.3	98	7.1	98.9	55	49	60	61	33	2595
PlainsGold	Whisper	W	5.4	54.9	Hard Dough	696	56.8	88	5.2	98.2	52	45	60	61	31	2504
KWS Cereals	KWS Progas	H. Rye	5.3	59.5	Soft Dough	332	53.8	102	4.9	98.5	56	44	64	66	38	2692
TriCal Superior Forage	TriCal Showtime	TriT	5.2	58.1	Soft Dough	372	51.7	80	7.0	98.0	57	47	58	60	30	2363
PlainsGold	Gabriel	W	5.1	58.0	Hard Dough	419	58.0	92	6.4	97.9	52	52	59	60	31	2440
Oklahoma Genetics, Inc	OK Corral	W	4.8	52.0	Hard Dough	236	54.0	101	7.6	98.5	49	48	61	62	34	2628
Univ. of California-Davis	UCT 2505	TriT	4.7	60.3	Hard Dough	128	29.7	76	6.6	98.2	59	47	58	59	29	2342
SecCan	Hazlet	OP Rye	4.7	61.9	Hard Dough	237	50.5	81	5.6	98.3	57	44	59	60	30	2426
KWS Cereals	KWS Aviator	H. Rye	4.6	59.3	Hard Dough	297	51.5	76	5.3	98.5	53	41	60	61	31	2407
NuHorizon Genetics	NT Pronto	TriT	4.5	55.7	Soft Dough	95	33.5	76	6.4	99.0	53	43	59	61	31	2414
TriCal Superior Forage	Surge	TriT	4.5	57.1	Hard Dough	179	44.0	80	5.8	37.8	55	45	59	60	30	2342
Univ. of California-Davis	UCT 2504	TriT	4.1	61.4	Milk	79	42.9	90	7.9	97.7	55	50	59	60	31	2376
Univ. of California-Davis	UCT 2503	TriT	3.8	58.8	Soft Dough	171	41.8	81	7.4	98.3	57	48	58	59	30	2377
PlainsGold	Amplify SF	W	3.8	57.2	Soft Dough	310	55.3	100	8.0	98.8	52	53	60	61	32	2579
Average			5.2	58.5	-	321	50.2	90	7.0	95.6	53	46	60	61	32	2408
LSD (0.30) ^d			0.9			99										
LSD (0.05) ^d			1.7			190										
Coefficient of Variation (CV)			12.8%			24.1%										

^aAll forage quality analyses results are dry basis values. CP=crude protein; RFQ=relative feed quality; aNDfom=ash free neutral detergent fiber; NDFD30=neutral detergent fiber digestibility at 30 hours; TDN=total digestible nutrients using OARDC; NEL=net energy for lactation using OARDC; NEG=net energy gain using OARDC; and Milkton=predicted amount of milk produced per ton of dry matter calculated using MILK2013.

^bForage Species: OP Rye=Open Pollinated Rye; H. Rye=Hybrid Rye; TriT=TriTale; W=Wheat.

^cHarvest at Rocky Ford was targeted for the soft dough growth stage. Trial was planted on Sept. 19, 2025 and harvested on June 1 for forage and July 10 for grain. A hard May freeze severely affected grain yield.

^dIf the difference between two variety yields equals or exceeds the LSD value, the difference is significant. Farmers selecting a variety based on yield should use the LSD (0.30) to protect from false negative decisions. Companies or researchers may be interested in the LSD (0.05) to avoid false positive conclusions.

The data included in this table may not be republished without permission. Contact Sally Jones-Diamond (sally.jones@colostate.edu).