Dynamics of triticale growth and quality during the season

Michael Ottman, Extension Agronomist, University of Arizona Wayne Coblentz, Research Leader, US Dairy Forage Research Center, USDA-ARS, Marshfield, WI

What is triticale?

- Winter cereal
 - Barley
 - Oats
 - Rye
 - <u>Triticale</u>
 - Wheat
- Wheat x rye hybrid
- Used for forage





(adapted from dreamstime.com)

Triticale study

- Maricopa Ag Center
- Planted Dec 18, 2019
- 14 varieties
- Measure yield and quality at 7 harvest dates
- Compare average of varieties over time



Forage yield



Growth rate



Leaf, stem, and head proportion



Crude protein



Energy







Milk per ton and acre



Triticale from early jointing to soft dough

- Yield increases linearly
- Quality decreases then levels off near heading
- After heading, no advantage to cut sooner than soft dough
 - Quality does not change much
 - Yield not maximized until soft dough