Best management practices for winter cereal forages: Economic and environmental

- Harvest at boot – late boot stage for optimal quality, particularly if intended for lactating cows.
- But, harvest early with good weather window (reduce risk for quality decline w/weather delay).
- Avoid chopping/ensiling at moistures above 70% moisture.
- Lay a wide/flat windrow for drying.
- Avoid ash contamination when cutting and harvesting.
- Avoid feeding to dry cows or close heifers due to potentially high K levels (wet chemistry analysis for mineral content).

