



# Animal Feed – Common crop options

Many crops found in Afghanistan can be used as supplemental feed sources for livestock (See following). The most important or most common ones are marked with a star (\*).

Crop	Scientific name	Common Name in Afghanistan (Dari)	Fresh, Leaves	Hay, straw, or stalk	Seed or grain
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## Legumes cultivated mainly to feed livestock:

* Alfalfa (Lucerne)	<i>Medicago sativa</i>	Rishka	✓	✓
* Clover, Persian	<i>Trifolium resupinatum</i>	Shaftal	✓	✓
* Clover, Berseem (Egyptian clover)	<i>Trifolium alexandrinum</i>		✓	
Clover, Yellow sweet	<i>Melilotus officinalis</i>	Shamlit	✓	
Grass pea	<i>Lathyrus sativus</i>	Kulul/patak	✓	
Sunn hemp	<i>Crotalaria juncea</i>		✓	✓
* Vetches	<i>Vicia spp</i>	Shokhal/talkhakh	✓	✓
Chickling vetch	<i>Lathyrus sativus</i>		✓	✓

## Legumes cultivated mainly for human consumption that can be used to feed livestock:

Beans	<i>Phaseolus spp</i>	Lubia	✓	✓
Broad (Faba) bean	<i>Vicia faba</i>	Baghla	✓	✓
Chick pea	<i>Cicer arietinum</i>	Nokhot	✓	✓
Field pea	<i>Pisum sativum</i>	Mushing-i-gerdu	✓	✓
Lentils	<i>Lens culinaris</i>	Adas	✓	✓
Mung bean	<i>Vigna radiata</i>	Mash	✓	✓
Groundnut	<i>Arachis hypogaea</i>	Mompali	✓	

Note: In general, legumes are a richer source of nutrition than cereals

## Cereals cultivated mainly to feed livestock:

Oat	<i>Avena sativa</i>		✓	✓
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## Cereals cultivated mainly for human consumption that can be used to feed livestock:

Barley	<i>Hordeum vulgare</i>	Jav	✓	✓	✓
* Maize	<i>Zea mays</i>	Javari	✓	✓	✓
Rice	<i>Oryza sativa</i>	Bee-reenj	✓	✓	✓
* Wheat	<i>Triticum spp</i>	Gandom	✓	✓	✓

Note: Cereals are a better source of nutrition when grain is included in the animal diet.

## Other Crops cultivated with by-products used to feed livestock:

Cotton	<i>Gossypium spp</i>			✓
Mulberry	<i>Morus spp</i>		✓	
Pistachio	<i>Pistacia vera</i>		✓	

\*most important or most common fodder options

**Note:** Grasses like Sudan grass (*Sorghum bicolor*), sorghum hybrids and millets (*Pennisetum americanum*) have been introduced with varied results. One of their main constraints is that they require nitrogen fertilizer, which farmers reserve mainly for food crops.

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**References:** AREU Case Study Series: Water management, Livestock and the Opium Economy – Livestock Feed and Products, by Anthony Fitzherbert, 2007 <http://www.areu.org.af/>  
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