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Giant marshmallows or haylage?

Have you seen stacks of plastic-wrapped hay bales? You might think that the plastic is keeping moisture out, but that isn't the whole story.

Round bale **silage**, also known as **haylage**, is a special type of cattle and dairy feed. Locally, fresh hay or corn forage is baled, then microbial inoculants are added to promote the growth of bacterial communities. The bale is then enclosed in plastic-wrap to maintain an airtight environment that allows anaerobic fermentation.

Haylage is beneficial because the fermentation process increases acidity which helps to preserve the hay for a



NC groundwater plan development

The 2014 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) applies to North Coast groundwater basins in the Eel River Valley and Smith River Plain.

The intent of SGMA is to promote sustainable management of groundwater. The SGMA provisions are mandatory for groundwater basins that are used for irrigation and/or drinking water, as designated by the State.

SGMA requires establishment of a Groundwater Sustainability Agency and preparation of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (or alternative demonstration of sustainable

longer period of time. Additionally the bacteria, that is harmless to cattle, breaks down lignin and helps to create a more palatable, nutrient-enriched food source.

management). Humboldt County, with support from UCCE, has been working with local stakeholders to formulate a [strategy](#) for responding to SGMA in the Eel River Valley.



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