2026 Wisconsin Oat and Barley Variety Performance Tests

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The Wisconsin oat and barley performance trials are conducted each year to serve Wisconsin farmers. Trials include released varieties, experimental lines from Wisconsin and Midwestern States, and lines from private companies. The main objective of these trials is to obtain data on how varieties perform in different locations and years. Farmers can use this data to help choose the best varieties to plant, and breeders can use it to decide whether to release a new variety or not and to select parents to make new crosses.

The best varieties for yield, disease resistance, and quality are entered into the Wisconsin Certification Program. As new varieties are released to the public, older varieties with inferior qualities are removed from the recommended list and eventually dropped from the certified list as seed production declines. Additionally, varieties from other states that perform well may be recommended and/or certified in Wisconsin.

Occasionally varieties are certified without being recommended to Wisconsin farmers. These varieties may include commercial varieties developed by private seed companies or varieties where there is a substantial market for Wisconsin-produced seed. Thus, in Wisconsin, recommendation and certification are different things. Recommended varieties are those with superior in-state production performance records, while certification assures seed purity and seed quality.

Variety selection

Factors to consider when selecting grain oats and barley varieties include grain yield, maturity, straw strength (or resistance to lodging), disease resistance, and grain quality (Tables 3-6). Oat farmers who are interested in selling their grain to the milling industry should also consider grain quality in the form of test weight, grain size and plumpness, groat percentage, and percentage of thins. Finally, some oat and barley varieties are evaluated for forage yield and quality (Tables 7 and 8). Barley farmers who are interested in selling varieties for malt may also consider whether a variety is acceptable to the malting industry.

Variety testing

Varieties in the trials are selected based on current demand, availability, and adaptation to Wisconsin's climate. Most of these varieties are commercially available. Several commercial and public varieties are regularly tested for comparison purposes.

Tests were conducted at six locations during the 2026 growing season using conventional tillage practices and a plant stand of 1.3 million plants per acre goal, one trial in organic certified land. Agronomic practices at all locations are listed in Table 1. In oats all grain experiments were conducted in an Alpha-lattice design with three complete replications. Forage oats were conducted in an Alpha-lattice design with four complete replications. Barley trials were conducted in randomized complete block designs with four replications.

2026 Growing season

In 2026, Wisconsin oat production was estimated at 4.5 million bushels. The total area planted with oats reached 145,000 acres, while the area harvested was 61,000 acres, representing a 3.3% decrease and a 3.6% increase in planted area compared with 2025 and 2024, respectively. The total harvested area in 2026 decreased by 6.2% compared with 2025 and declined by 4.7% compared with 2024. The average oat grain yield was 74 bushels per acre, a 15.6% increase from 2025 and a 10.4% increase compared with the 2024 average (Table 2).

The barley planted area in Wisconsin totaled 11,000 acres, with an estimated 3,000 acres harvested. The planted area decreased by 8.3% compared with 2025 and was equivalent to the area planted in 2024. In contrast, the harvested area showed a different trend, remaining unchanged compared with 2025 but declining by 40.0% compared with 2024 (Table 2). The average barley grain yield was 62 bushels per acre, representing a 31.9% increase from 2025 and a 37.8% increase compared with 2024.

The 2026 growing season in Wisconsin started with more rain than average in April, and less rain than average during the rest of the season with July being particularly hotter and drier than average. Wisconsin average temperatures for April (46.4˚F), May (54.9˚F), June (65.3˚F), and July (72.7˚F) deviated by +3.3˚F, -0.5˚F, +0.2˚F, and +3.5˚F, respectively, from historical averages (Mason et al., 2026). Precipitation totals in April (6.53″), May (1.613″), June (4.57″), and July (2.94″) showed deviations of +3.33″, -2.32″, -0.13″, and -1.10″, respectively, from historical averages (Mason et al., 2025). Planting occurred on normal dates across locations, with timely rains supporting crop emergence and establishment. The expression of crown rust disease was the highest observed in the last few years, while soil moisture accumulated from early and late rains supported overall crop development.

Table 1. Location and management practices of small grain variety trials in Wisconsin in 2026.

Location	County	Cooperators	Row Spacing	Previous Crop	Average N (lbs/acre)	Planting Date	Weed control	Harvest date	Tested Varieties
Antigo	Langlade	**J. Schumitsch**	6 inches	Potatoes	--	7-May	--	--	50
Arlington	Columbia	**M. Bertram**	6 inches	Soybean	None	7-Apr	Affinity Broadspec, Brox 2EC	28-Jul	120
Augusta	Eau Claire	**J. Clark**	7 inches	Soybean	75	22-Apr	None	28-Aug	50
Lancaster	Grant	**D. Wiedenbeck**	6 inches	Soybean	10	23-Apr	Harmony SG	4-Aug	50
Madison	Dane	**J. Hedtcke**	6 inches	Soybean	None	1-Apr	None	22-Jul	130
Madison Org.	Dane	**J. Hedtcke**	6 inches	Soybean	None	31-Mar	1 Tine weeder pass at Z3.0	21-Jul	20
Sturgeon Bay	Door	**R. Wiepz**	6 inches	Soybean	None	14-May	None	12-Aug	50
Spooner	Washburn	**P. Holman/D. Liu**	6 inches	Soybean	10	22-Apr	2.4 D Amina, Bromoxynil	11-Aug	50

2025 Growing season

The 2025 growing season in Madison alternated between dry and wet periods. Wisconsin average temperatures for April (42.9 °F), May (55.0 °F), June (66.3 °F), and July (71.0 °F) deviated by -0.2 °F, -0.4 °F, +1.2 °F, and +1.8 °F, respectively, from historical averages (Mason et al., 2025). Precipitation totals in April (3.17″), May (2.47″), June (5.64″), and July (4.39″) showed deviations of +0.03″, -1.46″, +0.95″, and +0.35″, respectively, from historical averages (Mason et al., 2025). Planting occurred on normal dates across locations, with timely rains supporting crop emergence and establishment. The mid-season dryness delayed the onset of crown rust disease, while soil moisture accumulated from early and late rains supported overall crop development

2024 Growing season

The 2024 growing season was warmer than usual with higher levels of precipitation in the Madison location. Average temperatures for April (49.0°F), May (61.9°F), June (70.4°F), and July (72.2°F) had deviations of +2.7°F, +3.8°F, +2.4°F and +0.3°F from historical averages. The precipitations in April (3.69"), May (5.51"), June (8.82"), and July (8.40") had deviations of -0.09", +1.41", +3.54", and +3.89" from historical averages. Therefore, the entire growing season was warmer and wetter. While during the early season, average precipitation allowed for adequate planting in most locations, above average rainfall from May, created difficult conditions for adequate crop growth. Disease expression was also favored with the higher temperatures and moisture. Source: USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service

Table 2. Historical area, production, and grain yield of oat and barley in Wisconsin.

	Oat				Barley			
Year	Area planted (acres)	Area harvested (acres)	Total (million bu)	Yield (bu/ac)	Area planted (acres)	Area harvested (acres)	Total (million bu)	Yield (bu/ac)
2026	145,000	61,000	4.5	74	11,000	3,000	0.19	62
2025	150,000	65,000	4.1	64	12,000	3,000	0.14	47
2024	140,000	64,000	4.3	67	11,000	5,000	0.22	45

Source: USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service www.nass.usda.gov

Table 3. Oat variety description.

Variety	Origin	Release year	Kernel color	Maturity date [a]	Ht (in)[b]	Lodging (%) [c]	Test Wt (lbs/bu)[d]	Kernel protein (%)	Crown rust (0-9) [e]	Stem rust (1-4) [fg]	BYDV [h] (0-9)	Licensed/PVP [i]	WI Cert.
Recommended													
Antigo	WI	2017	yellow	17	35	28	43	14	4	3	2	yes	yes
BetaGene™	WI	2014	yellow	20	35	24	39	12.6	2	3	2	yes	yes
Deon	MN	2013	yellow	26	41	30	40	13.6	2	2	3	yes	yes
Esker2020	WI	2020	yellow	19	38	24	39	14	4	3	3	yes	yes
Mink	WI	2022	yellow	19	30	9	41	13.3	4	3	2	yes	yes
MN-Pearl	MN	2019	white	25	39	45	38	12.8	4	0	3	yes	yes
Ron	WI	2014	yellow	19	31	8	41	14.2	4	3	2	yes	yes
Rushmore	SD	2019	white	25	42	19	40	12.3	2	1	2	yes	yes
SD Buffalo	SD	2021	white	22	40	40	41	13.8	3	0	3	yes	yes
New Releases!													
Homerun	WI	2026	Yellow	23	33	23	41	14.5	3	1	3	yes	yes
Champion	WI	2026	Yellow	28	39	12	39	15.9	2	2	2	yes	yes
Other varieties													
Badger	WI	2010	yellow	17	33	38	39	13.2	4	4	3	yes	yes
Hayden	SD	2014	yellow	23	41	39	42	12.6	4	1	3	yes	yes
ND Heart	ND	2020	white	22	40	42	40	13.8	3	0	3	yes	yes
Reins	IL	2017	white	22	35	19	40	14.3	4	4	3	yes	yes
Saddle	SD	2018	white	18	35	22	40	14.3	4	1	3	yes	yes
Sumo	SD	2016	white	18	38	28	41	14.8	3	2	3	yes	yes

[a.] Maturity (days after May 31st) as indicated in 16 Wisconsin tests conducted in 2024-2026. [b.] Height (inches) at maturity in 11 Wisconsin tests conducted in 2024-2026. [c]Lodging in 10 Wisconsin tests conducted in 2024 and 2026. [d]Test weight (lbs/bu) in 18 Wisconsin tests conducted in 2024-2026. [e]Crown rust disease resistance values. Due to the high mutation rate of the pathogen, only in 2024-2026 data were used for crown rust reports. [f]Because disease expression varies from year to year, and cannot be scored every single year, historical data was used to assign disease resistance to stem rust, and smut, Source: T3/Oat, https://oat.triticeaetoolbox.org. [g] Stem rust disease resistance. [h]Barley yellow dwarf virus or red leaf disease resistance (BYDV) in 10 Wisconsin tests conducted 2024-2026. [i] PVP=Plant Variety Protection or licensed seed production. A "yes" indicates that these varieties cannot be grown and sold as seed without certification.

Table 4. Grain yield (bushels per acre) of oat varieties in 2026 and 3-yr average (2024, 2025, and 2026), in Arlington, Augusta, Lancaster, Madison, Sturgeon Bay, and Spooner.

	Grain yield (bu per A)														
	Arlington [a]		Augusta [f]		Lancaster		Madison [g]			Sturgeon Bay		Spooner		Overall [b]	
Variety	2026	3-yr [c]	2026	3-yr	2026	3-yr	2026	3-yr	2026 Org.	2026	3-yr	2026	3-yr	2026	3-yr
Antigo	120	127	79	63	62	65	121	125	51	90	69	44	50	81	86
Badger	123	125	76	70	66	72	106	125	--	102	90	37	47	81	89
BetaGene™	127	**154***	36	41	72	**90***	**139***	136	**99***	109	95	69	**91***	95	**108***
Deon	**143***	**150***	73	64	69	82	135	**154***	78	**120***	**102***	**85***	**98***	**102***	**110***
Esker2020	**138***	**147***	**96***	**76***	55	77	144	**155***	78	**116***	97	72	76	**101***	**107***
Hayden	**150***	**147***	81	67	75	85	141	**155***	--	**116***	100	54	82	**98***	**110***
Mink	115	121	59	57	52	67	109	119	62	72	64	36	49	74	81
MN-Pearl	123	133	**92***	63	46	60	137	**150***	--	**118***	**102***	49	58	89	100
ND Heart	126	125	**90***	**71***	67	70	112	121	--	102	91	68	73	91	94
Reins	133	**144***	60	63	65	73	126	131	--	99	88	**83***	78	91	98
Ron	123	130	76	**71***	46	69	111	117	--	84	69	43	47	76	85
Rushmore	132	**143***	66	66	**83***	85	124	**147***	--	107	98	**83***	**96***	93	**106***
Saddle	129	140	76	67	79	**86***	126	**142***	--	109	79	53	57	91	99
SD Buffalo	**135***	137	62	**71***	71	79	**149***	**153***	--	111	100	61	81	**96***	**107***
Sumo	**139***	127	68	65	67	73	110	109	--	91	80	81	80	92	89
Homerun	**139***	**146***	**83***	**76***	79	**89***	**143***	**156***	**95***	110	87	**94***	**85***	**104***	**106***
Champion	**150***	**158***	**91***	**81***	**94***	**99***	**144***	**155***	**103***	**116***	**112***	80	**97***	**110***	**122***
Mean [d]	73	142	74	70	135	84	75	138	77	132	93	107	85	95	103
Trial S.E. [e]	1.1	0.4	1.6	0.5	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.5	1.0	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.9	0.4	0.2
LSD	15.3	15.2	15.0	10.9	10.6	13.9	10.5	17.1	11.7	6.5	9.6	11.7	13.9	14.5	16.0

[a.] Varieties that are not significantly different (P<0.05) from the highest yielding variety in the trial using a Fisher's Least Significant Difference (LSD) test are marked with a star (*). [b.] Overall performance is provided for completeness; however, we advise caution in selecting varieties by the overall yield for all locations in Wisconsin because of the large genotype by environment interactions present. [c.] the three-year average for the location nearest your farm is probably a better predictor of the performance of a variety in a particular area. [d.] The trial mean average includes the varieties in the table and additional elite experimental lines. [e.] S.E. Standard error. [f.] Augusta location has been tested for first in 2025 and has only two years of data. [g.] Madison Organic environment has tested for first time in 2026; trial is planted in certified organic land.

Table 5. Barley variety descriptions

Variety	Origin	Year	Rows	Objective [a]	Test Wt (lb/bu) [b]	Ht (in) [c]	Maturity date [d]	Net Blotch (0-9) [e]	Spot Blotch (0-9) [f]	BYDV (0-9) [g]	FHB (0-9) [h]	Lodging (%) [i]
AAC Synergy	CA	2012	2	Malting	44	32	26	1	2	2	2	16
AC Metcalfe	CA	1997	2	Malting	45	32	27	2	3	3	1	17
CDC Copeland	CA	1999	2	Malting	43	32	25	3	4	2	2	28
Conlon	ND	1996	2	Malting	44	31	20	3	4	2	1	29
Kewaunee	WI	1994	6	Feed	43	33	20	1	1	3	1	14
LCS Genie	US	2016	2	Malting	45	32	21	4	4	2	2	12
ND Genesis	ND	2015	2	Malting	44	32	23	1	2	2	2	14
Rasmusson	MN	2008	6	Malting	44	30	21	1	1	3	0	8

[a.] Suggested use stated in release and commercial information. [b]Test weight (lb per bu) in 18 Wisconsin tests conducted 2024-2026. [c] Height (inches) at maturity in 18 Wisconsin tests conducted 2024-2026. [d] Maturity (days after May 31st) as indicated in 18 Wisconsin tests conducted in 2024-2026. [e] Net Blotch disease resistance: six trials between 2019-2021 data were used for Net Blotch reports. [f] Spot Blotch disease resistance six trials between 2019-2021 data were used for Spot Blotch reports. [g] Barley yellow dwarf virus or red leaf disease resistance (BYDV) six trials 2024-2026 trials used for BYDV reports [h] FHB Fusarium head blight based on natural expression in 2 Wisconsin tests conducted in 2019-2021, no expression in 2026. [i] Lodging in 6 Wisconsin tests conducted in 2024-2026.

Table 6. Grain yield (bushels per acre) of barley varieties in 2026 and 3-yr average (2024, 2025, and 2026) at seven locations in Wisconsin

	Grain Yield (bu per A) [a]														
	Antigo	Arlington		Augusta [e]		Lancaster		Madison		Spooner		Sturgeon Bay		Overall [b]	
Genotype	3-yr	2026	3-yr	2026	2-yr	2026	3-yr	2026	3-yr	2026	3-yr	2026	3-yr	2026	3-yr
AAC Synergy	**76***	112	**80***	54	**48***	36	28	78	71	30	**39***	**57***	**70***	**65***	**53***
AC Metcalfe	65	61	56	53	45	20	20	45	54	13	24	33	54	36	39
CDC Copeland	63	71	60	52	43	25	23	51	63	25	24	27	56	45	42
Conlon	64	98	63	71	38	35	28	87	65	36	35	**61***	**63***	**61***	47
Kewaunee	**76***	**120***	**85***	**89***	45	29	28	**94***	**86***	41	**45***	**58***	**64***	**71***	**57***
LCS Genie	65	109	73	79	44	**50***	**35***	74	68	**47***	**36***	53	61	**68***	51
ND Genesis	**79***	98	**80***	**81***	**51***	34	**30***	86	81	36	**36***	**58***	**67***	**67***	**56***
Rasmusson	70	**123***	**88***	**82***	**51***	36	**31***	**93***	**94***	**44***	**43***	51	**65***	**71***	**59***
Mean [c]	71	101	76	71	47	35	28	79	76	37	39	52	64	63	53
Trial S. E. [d]	0.6	1	0.9	1.8	0.7	1.1	0.6	1	0.9	0.8	0.8	1.1	0.7	0.7	0.2
LSD	6.5	5.8	8.9	7.7	5.2	6.8	6.2	5.5	9	4.3	8.4	6.2	6.8	10.1	6.1

[a.] Varieties that are not significantly different ($p<0.05$) from the highest yielding variety in the trial using a Fisher's Least Significant Difference (LSD) test are marked with a star (*). [b.] Overall performance is provided for completeness; however, we advise caution in selecting varieties by the overall yield for all locations in Wisconsin because of the large genotype by environment interaction present. [c.] Trial means include the varieties in the table and additional elite experimental lines. [d.] S.E. standard error. [e.] Augusta location has been tested for first in 2025 and has only two years of data.

Table 7. Forage dry matter yield and quality of spring oat varieties, and oat-forage peas mixture in 2026 and 3-yr average (2024, 2025, and 2026), evaluated at Madison and Arlington, Wisconsin.

			Arlington								Madison							
	Overall		Dry Biomass (lb/ac) [a]		Crude protein (%)		Relative forage quality		Milk (lb/ton)		Dry Biomass (lb/ac)		Crude protein (%)		Relative forage quality		Milk (lb/ton)	
Genotype	Booting	Maturity	2026	3-yr	2026	3-yr	2026	3-yr	2026	3-yr	2026	3-yr	2026	3-yr	2026	3-yr	2026	3-yr
ForagePlus	19	26	2851	2389	**12.8***	**10.4***	**115***	**87***	**2581***	**1935***	**2216***	**2563***	**10.2***	**9.4***	100	90	2279	1905
George	17	25	2826	2327	**13.1***	**9.8***	107	**82***	2372	**1850***	1970	2361	**10.6***	**9.1***	**143***	**105***	**2989***	**2210***
Goliath	15	19	**3408***	**2808***	10.9	**9.7***	81	**84***	1959	**1908***	**2262***	**2490***	**9.9***	**8.9***	113	**98***	2577	**2109***
Haymaker [d]	20	24	2731	--	12.1	--	**121***	--	**2672***	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Laker	17	23	**3280***	**2581***	**12.5***	**10.1***	91	**86***	2135	**1859***	**2241***	2458	**10.2***	**9.7***	96	**93***	2203	1969
Vista	14	17	**3516***	**2565***	10.7	**9.9***	76	**84***	1849	**1864***	**2468***	**2884***	**9.9***	**9.1***	104	85	2414	1868
Forage oat + Forage Peas [e f]																		
ForagePlus-Peas	20	27	**3633***	--	**15.7***	--	**118***	--	**2603***	--	**3132***	--	**13.4***	--	**118***	--	**2518***	--
George-Peas	15	25	**3666***	--	14.8	--	86	--	1993	--	2212	--	**14.4***	--	**147***	--	**2995***	--
Trial mean [b]	15	19	3132	2562	12.6	10.00	95	86	2188	1911	2084	2554	10.6	9.7	120	98	2651	2102
Trial S. E. [c]	0.05	0.07	30	16	0.07	0.05	0.9	0.6	15	10	19	20	0.1	0.1	1	1	14	11
LSD	1.5	1.6	340	397	0.7	1.0	9.8	13.1	167	231	191	411	0.7	1.1	9	13	137	226

[a.] Varieties that are not significantly different (p<0.05) from the highest performing variety in the trial using a Fisher's Least Significant Difference (LSD) test are marked with a star (*). [b.] Trial means, which includes the varieties in the table and some additional elite experimental lines in the trial. [c.] S.E. standard error. [d.] Cultivar 'Haymaker' has been tested only one year during 2026 in Arlington. [e.] Forage and Pea mixture was tested in selected cultivars for first time in 2026 in both Arlington and Madison. [f.] Oat varieties and forage pea mixtures that are not significantly different (p<0.05) from the highest performing variety in the trial using a Fisher's Least Significant Difference (LSD) test are marked with a star (*).

Table 8. Forage dry matter yield and quality of spring barley varieties in 2026 and 3-yr average (2024, 2025, and 2026) evaluated at Arlington and Madison, Wisconsin.

			Arlington				Madison							
	Overall		Dry Biomass (lb/ac) [a]	Crude protein (%)	Relative forage quality	Milk (lb/ton)	Dry Biomass (lb/ac)		Crude protein (%)		Relative forage quality		Milk (lb/ton)	
Variety	Booting	Maturity	3-yr	3-yr	3-yr	3-yr	2026	3-yr	2026	3-yr	2026	3-yr	2026	3-yr
Hays	12	17	**1718***	10	**106***	**2362***	**2160***	**2113***	**10***	**9***	119	**108***	2694	**2396***
Kewaunee	9	11	**1584***	**12***	**118***	**2538***	1554	**1655***	**11***	**10***	**130***	**110***	**2836***	**2372***
Redrock	12	16	**1749***	10	**115***	**2544***	**2204***	**2088***	9	**10***	105	**110***	2486	**2456***
Trial mean [b]	15	19	2562	10	86	1911	2084	2554	11	10	120	98	2651	2102
Trial S.E. [c]	0.05	0.07	16.29	0.05	0.59	10.37	19.04	19.96	0.07	0.05	0.88	0.62	13.73	10.91
LSD	1.5	1.6	397.0	1.0	13.1	231.0	191.2	410.9	0.7	1.1	8.8	12.9	137.4	225.8

[a] Varieties that are not significantly different (p<0.05) from the highest performing variety in the trial using a Fisher's Least Significant Difference (LSD) test are marked with a star (*). [b] The trial means include the varieties in the table and some additional elite experimental lines in the trial. [c] S.E. Standard error.

Performance evaluation

Grain yield. Plots were harvested with a combine harvester in Antigo, Arlington, Madison, and Sturgeon Bay. Seed weight and test weight were recorded using the combine's integrated Harvest Master system. At other locations, bundles of plants were harvested, dried, and threshed. Yields are reported in bushels per acre at 12% moisture content. There are 32 pounds per bushel for oat and 48 pounds per bushel for barley (Tables 4 and 6).
Test weight. Test weight was measured using a HarvestMaster system in combined trials and a Cox funnel with a 0.5-liter measuring cup for the threshed bundles. All data were converted to pounds per bushel following seed trade recommendations, and results are reported in pounds per bushel (Tables 3 and 5).
Maturity. Maturity was evaluated by recording the date when 50% of the plants in a plot had headed. Maturity is reported as the calendar date, using the three-year average across all locations (Tables 3, 5, 7, and 8).
Plant height. Plant height was measured from the base of the plant to the tip of the panicle in oat and to the tip of the spike (excluding awns) in barley. The trait was measured in centimeters and converted to inches for analysis. Plant height is reported in inches using the three-year average across all locations (Tables 3, and 5).
Disease resistance. Disease resistance was evaluated as a combination of incidence and severity, where 0 represents no disease and 9 represents all plants affected up to the flag leaf (Table 3). Note that the reporting method has changed starting in 2024 to align with other states' formats. An updated resistance status for all varieties is provided using combined data from Wisconsin and other states. Because pathogen populations change over time, only the most recent years are used in this report (Tables 3 and 5).
Lodging. Lodging was measured as the percentage of the plot leaning more than a 45° (Tables 3, and 5).
Forage dry matter. An area of 35.7 ft^2 was harvested using a forage harvester at 2 inches above the ground. Total harvest weight, and the dry matter content of the plot. The dry weight of the sampled area was converted to tons per acre before analysis. Yield is reported in tons per acre (Tables 7 and 8).
Forage quality. Forage quality was evaluated at the Soil and Forage Lab at UW-Madison. Relative forage quality (RFQ), percent of crude protein (CP%), and total milk production in tons per acre are reported (Tables 7 and 8).

Licensed varieties

The Wisconsin Agricultural Experimental Station and/or the UW-Madison Department of Agronomy has granted sole authority to the Wisconsin Crop Improvement Association to issue formal licenses to produce certified seeds of Kewaunee barley, Spooner rye; and Vista oat. The Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation has granted sole authority to the Wisconsin Crop Improvement Association

to issue formal licenses to produce certified seeds of Esker2020, Ron, BetaGene™, Antigo, Laker, George, and Mink oat. These grants of sole authority are intended to reinforce Plant Variety Protection (PVP) regulations and generate research and development funds for the Wisconsin breeding program. These varieties are PVP protected, and a license is required for seed production. Each bag of seeds will have a special red and white PVP/Licensed Variety tag attached or preprinted on the bag.

Testing agencies

The variety tests were conducted by the Department of Plant and Agroecosystem Sciences, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, University of Wisconsin-Madison in cooperation with the Wisconsin Crop Improvement Association.

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2026 Wisconsin Oats & Barley Performance Tests (A3874)

Sources

Mason B, Hopkins E, Latham A, Larsen Converse D, Vavrus S. 2026 Wisconsin Climate Summaries. https://climatology.nelson.wisc.edu/category/wisconsin-climate-summaries/
USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service www.nass.usda.gov

Supplementary table 1. Protein fractions from quality analysis of spring oat varieties, and oat-forage peas mixture evaluated in 2026 at Madison and Arlington, Wisconsin.

Variety	Arlington						Madison					
	CP % of DM	Sol CP % of CP	ADF-CP % of DM	NDF-CP % of DM	Est HDP % of DM	Adj CP% of DM	CP % of DM	Sol CP % of CP	ADF-CP % of DM	NDF-CP % of DM	Est HDP % of DM	Adj CP% of DM
ForagePlus	13	1.3	1.3	3.7	1.3	12	10	1	1	3	1	10
George	13	1.1	1.1	3.9	1.1	13	11	1	1	2	1	11
Goliath	11	1.0	1.0	4.0	1.0	11	10	1	1	3	1	10
Haymaker	12	1.3	0.9	3.1	1.3	12	--	--	--	--	--	--
Laker	12	1.0	1.1	4.1	1.0	12	10	1	1	3	1	10
Vista	11	1.0	1.1	4.0	1.0	11	10	1	1	3	1	9
Forage oat + Peas												
ForagePlus-Peas	16	1.6	1.6	4.3	1.6	15	13	1	1	3	1	13
George-Peas	15	1.3	1.3	4.7	1.3	15	14	1	1	3	1	14
Trial Mean	13	1.1	1.1	4	1	12	11	1	1	3	1	11
Trial S.E.	0.07	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.08	0.07	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.01	0.07
LSD	0.71	0.21	0.18	0.24	0.21	0.87	0.71	0.14	0.14	0.29	0.14	0.69

Supplementary table 2. Fiber fractions from quality analysis of spring oat varieties, and oat-forage peas mixture evaluated in 2026 at Madison and Arlington, Wisconsin.

Variety	Arlington							Madison						
	ADF% of DM	aNDF% of DM	ADL% of DM	ADL % aNDF	NDFD 48 % aNDF	NDFD 30 % aNDF	NFC % of DM	ADF% of DM	aNDF% of DM	ADL% of DM	ADL % aNDF	NDFD 48 % aNDF	NDFD 30 % aNDF	NFC % of DM
ForagePlus	37	58	3	5	69	58	17	37	60	3	5	66	54	18
George	35	57	4	6	65	53	19	31	52	3	5	70	62	27
Goliath	37	62	4	6	61	47	17	33	57	3	5	66	54	24
Haymaker	36	55	3	5	69	57	21	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Laker	37	61	4	6	62	50	16	36	59	4	6	63	51	19
Vista	37	62	5	7	57	44	19	34	58	3	6	63	51	24
Forage oats + Peas														
ForagePlus-Peas	37	55	3	6	69	56	18	36	54	4	7	64	56	21
George-Peas	38	60	5	9	60	46	16	32	50	4	8	68	61	26
Trial Mean	37	60	4	7	63	51	17	33	56	3	6	67	57	23
Trial S.E.	0.13	0.19	0.03	0.04	0.20	0.28	0.13	0.09	0.16	0.02	0.03	0.15	0.19	0.16
LSD	1.38	2.11	0.33	0.48	2.21	3.01	1.46	0.89	1.60	0.20	0.29	1.54	1.86	1.57

Supplementary table 3. Energy components from quality analysis of spring oat varieties, and oat-forage peas mixture evaluated in 2026 at Madison and Arlington, Wisconsin.

Variety	Arlington						Madison					
	Fat % of DM	TDN 1x % of DM	NEl 3x Mcals/lb	NEm Mcals/lb	NEg Mcals/lb	ME Mcals/lb	Fat % of DM	TDN 1x % of DM	NEl 3x Mcals/lb	NEm Mcals/lb	NEg Mcals/lb	ME Mcals/lb
ForagePlus	3.24	57.95	0.59	0.58	0.32	0.97	2.60	54.30	0.55	0.51	0.26	0.89
George	2.74	55.81	0.57	0.54	0.28	0.92	2.69	63.33	0.65	0.68	0.41	1.08
Goliath	2.64	50.92	0.51	0.44	0.19	0.82	2.69	58.45	0.60	0.59	0.33	0.98
Haymaker	3.19	59.36	0.61	0.61	0.34	0.99	--	--	--	--	--	--
Laker	2.70	52.86	0.53	0.48	0.23	0.86	2.63	53.64	0.54	0.50	0.24	0.88
Vista	2.21	49.81	0.50	0.42	0.18	0.80	2.47	56.67	0.58	0.55	0.30	0.94
Forage oats + Peas												
ForagePlus-Peas	3.13	58.61	0.60	0.59	0.33	0.98	2.36	57.44	0.58	0.57	0.31	0.96
George-Peas	2.60	51.42	0.52	0.45	0.20	0.83	2.45	63.43	0.65	0.68	0.41	1.08
Trial Mean	2.77	53.59	0.54	0.49	0.24	0.88	2.62	59.21	0.60	0.60	0.34	0.99
Trial S.E.	0.01	0.19	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.17	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
LSD	0.14	2.01	0.02	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.09	1.69	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.03

Supplementary table 4. Mineral fraction from quality analysis of spring oat varieties, and oat-forage peas mixture evaluated in 2026 at Madison and Arlington, Wisconsin.

Variety	Arlington					Madison				
	P % of DM	Ca % of DM	K % of DM	Mg % of DM	Ash % of DM	P % of DM	Ca % of DM	K % of DM	Mg % of DM	Ash % of DM
ForagePlus	0.32	0.53	3.75	0.23	13	0.27	0.46	3.49	0.23	13
George	0.28	0.45	2.92	0.21	12	0.25	0.38	2.78	0.20	10
Goliath	0.24	0.41	2.70	0.17	11	0.24	0.33	2.55	0.17	10
Haymaker	0.30	0.45	3.34	0.19	12	--	--	--	--	--
Laker	0.27	0.42	3.13	0.20	11	0.26	0.43	3.06	0.21	12
Vista	0.21	0.26	2.22	0.11	9	0.24	0.28	2.51	0.14	9
Forage oats + Peas										
ForagePlus-Peas	0.33	0.56	3.67	0.24	12	0.30	0.60	3.41	0.26	12
George-Peas	0.28	0.65	3.09	0.25	12	0.29	0.63	2.96	0.25	11
Trial Mean	0.27	0.46	2.99	0.19	12	0.26	0.39	2.81	0.19	10
Trial S.E.	0.00	0.01	0.02	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.04
LSD	0.02	0.06	0.18	0.02	0.69	0.01	0.03	0.11	0.01	0.44