

Supplementary Information

Optimizing the N Rate for Maize Forage to Balance Profits and N Ecological Stress

Kun Han^a, Peng Liu^{a*}

^aState Key Laboratory of Crop Biology, Key Laboratory of Crop Water Physiology and Drought-tolerance Germplasm Improvement, College of Agronomy, Shandong Agricultural University, Taian, Shandong, China, 271018. *Corresponding author.

Correspondence information: **Peng Liu**, State Key Laboratory of Crop Biology, Key Laboratory of Crop Water Physiology and Drought-tolerance Germplasm Improvement, College of Agronomy, Shandong Agricultural University, Taian, Shandong, China, 271018, E-mail addresses: liup@sdau.edu.cn, Tel.: +86-0538-8242653, Fax: +86-0538-8242653.

Table S1. The regression equations of forage yield, economic profit, ecological profit, $\Delta_{\text{Soil}}(\text{NO}_3^--\text{N})$ based on the two-year measured data.

Objective	year	Regression equation	R ²
Forage yield	2017	$Y = -0.0413x^2 + 33.05x + 14346$	0.98
(kg ha ⁻¹)	2018	$Y = -0.0449x^2 + 34.47x + 14057$	0.99
Economic profit	2017	$Y = -0.008089x^2 + 5.0527x + 1902.6$	0.95
(USD ha ⁻¹)	2018	$Y = -0.008777x^2 + 5.3299x + 1846$	0.98
Ecological profit	2017	$Y = -0.010102x^2 + 5.009x + 1857.5$	0.90
(USD ha ⁻¹)	2018	$Y = -0.010789x^2 + 0.5286x + 1801$	0.97
$\Delta_{\text{Soil}}(\text{NO}_3^--\text{N})$	2017	$Y = 0.5191x - 95.03$	0.98
(kg N ha ⁻¹)	2018	$Y = 0.4878x - 91.03$	0.98

Note: Y is the objective yield, and x is N application rate.