

## Supplementary Information

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

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

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