

Kentucky Department of Agriculture Hay Testing Program

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The Kentucky Department Of Agriculture Is The Only Department Of Agriculture In The United States That Supports Its Producers And Consumers In This Exceptionally Important Capacity -- Maximizing Production, Minimizing Cost and Maintaining Healthy Livestock.

The Kentucky Department of Agriculture offers a forage testing service which provides nutritional and energy value information. A Kentucky Department of Agriculture staff member will take sample(s) of hay and/or haylage at the farm and analyze them in the Kentucky Department of Agriculture Forage Laboratory located in Frankfort. Tested forages can mean higher profit, whether feeding cattle, horses, goats, sheep or other livestock. By knowing the nutritional and energy value, you can minimize your cost and maximize your production.

Forage testing helps to determine fair market value and an equitable price. By keeping a forage journal, testing helps in comparing forage quality year-to-year. The Department charges a \$10 fee per lot (same field same cutting) for the service. The producer receives an analysis of the forage's nutritional value and an "Interpreting Forage Quality Report" guide.

The Kentucky Department of Agriculture's Forage Testing Program follows standards outlined by the National Forage Testing Association (NFTA). Your local Extension Agent can assist you with your winter feed ration.

Livestock farmers who need hay can find it right here in Kentucky. Listings of farms with hay for sale can be found on The Forage Program page of the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's Web site, www.kyagr.com. The for sale program supports both our KY Producers and KY Consumers in saving costs otherwise spent out of state; keeping Kentucky money in Kentucky.

If the hay is to be sold, a Kentucky Department of Agriculture staff will make a visual evaluation of the forage to use in the listing on the Forage Sales Directory page. Listings on the Forage Sales Directory page brings the consumer and producer together, analysis can be sorted by any combination of county, relative feed value (RFV), bale size and type of hay. Each listing describes a lot's type, cutting date, cutting number, bale size and weight, color, odor, RFV and other characteristics.

There are two people who work with the Forage Testing Program; Kimberly Field and Jim Wade; Jim covers the 270 area code. An Extension Agent or Producer can also submit forages for testing. We do have a Hay Sample Request Form that needs to be submitted with each sample. Payment (no cash) must be made at the time sample is submitted.

Please make sure if you are submitting a sample that you submit an adequate amount of forage; a sandwich size baggie is perfect. Please label Baggie to match Sample Request Form. Please write legibly. We do not test corn silage; google Wet Laboratories this will give you a listing of laboratories you can contact. If the forage is "For Sale" Jim or Kim must take the sample.

Both Kim and Jim take appointments for the Forage Testing Units. The Forage Testing Units are outfitted and used for educational purposes; the "Units" can and have been booked for state fair, expo's, hay contests, association meetings, etc.

The Department of Agriculture works closely with Dr. Garry Lacefield, Extension Forage Specialist; Dr. Ray Smith, Extension Forage Specialist; and Tom Keene, Hay Specialist with the University of Kentucky. And Dr. Ken Andries, Animal Science Specialist at Kentucky State University.

For more information on the Forage Testing Program, visit our website at www.kyagr.com , call toll-free 1-800-248-4628 - Kimberly Field / kimberly.field@ky.gov or Jim Wade - 270-776-2172 / jim.wade@ky.gov