Alfalfa Hay and Balage: Testing for Quality

Kimberly Field Program Coordinator Forage Testing Program Kentucky Department of Agriculture



Forage Testing Program

Forage Team

Jim Wade - Central Mike Phelps - Western Tina Garland – Eastern / Frankfort Lab Kimberly Field – Eastern / Frankfort Lab Mac Stone – Director Michael Judge – Executive Director Richie Farmer – Commissioner of Agriculture

Our Goal: To Educate the Producer on the Benefits of Testing Their Forage

Benefit: Maximize Production / Minimize Cost



Forage Testing Program

Why Test Your Hay?

- By knowing the percentages and protein levels you can increase/decrease the amount of supplements needed from your analysis report and will help the producer set feeding rations
- If you do not know what you have in your forage you are over or under feeding your livestock – therefore affecting the health of your animal and your pocket book



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NFT



Forage Testing Program

Forage Samples Analyzed Per Year in the Lab and Van

2004 - 1242 2005 - 3550 2006 - 2776 2007 - 3843

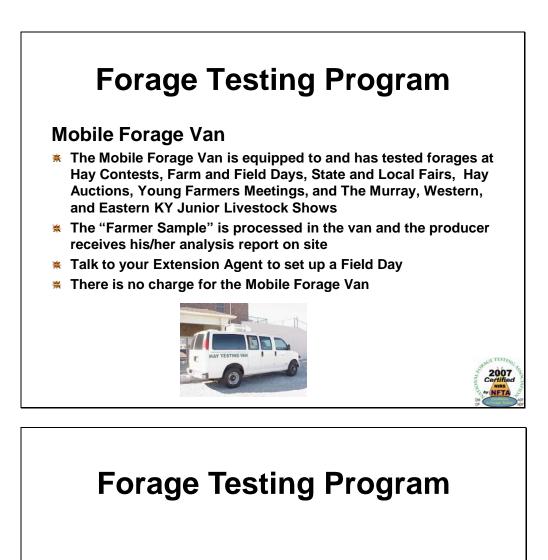


Forage Testing Program

Commissioner Richie Farmer

- Secured funding for updated computers and software to bring the lab up to date
- Secured funding for a new Mobile Forage 8' x 18' Unit with a new NIR Analyzing System, Grinding Mill and a Computer with Printer
- Instrumental with drought relief in lifting the wide load size limit ban to have roll hay bales brought into Kentucky from neighboring states
- * Instrumental with Disaster Declaration from USDA Secretary
- Education efforts with the University of Kentucky
- Worked with Legislators / Agriculture Development Board
- Hay Hotline





Questions?

Thank you!

