

Testing the nutritional quality of hay is a tool that helps producers make money saving management decisions. The results from these hay tests are very beneficial in making winter feeding decisions. Knowing the quality of hay helps the producer know what areas of the cow's nutrient requirements will be met by feeding hay, and brings attention to the areas that need to be met by another source of supplementation.

Dairy One Forage Lab is a reputable and very efficient lab to have hay samples tested. We recommend that you use this lab for all of your forage testing needs. The "(09) Basic Wet Chemistry Package" (\$18 per sample) is recommended for a basic forage analysis, but different, more detailed packages are available as well. The key to submitting a good sample is to collect several subsamples to form a composite, so hay samples should be taken from 12-20 different bales with a hay probe. We can provide this service to you for a small fee, if needed. Once a quart size bag is filled with subsamples, it should be labeled and mailed to the Dairy One Lab.

For more information concerning:

- Taking a sample, visit: http://www.dairyone.com/Forage/services/Forage/Forage_Good_Sample.htm
- Sample submission, visit: <http://www.dairyone.com/Forage/services/Forage/ForageInfoForm.pdf>

As always, let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,
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