
FORAGE TESTING - ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT THIS YEAR!

James B. Neel
Professor
Department of Animal Science

Typically, hay provides the majority of the nutritional needs of a cow herd during the late fall and winter months. This year, however, may present some unique challenges due to the extreme variations in forage quality and quantity resulted due to the drought. On the other hand, by taking an inventory now of the quantity and quality of forages, there's plenty of time to plan for supplementing whatever forage has been harvested with the correct and most cost effective supplements.

To properly supplement livestock, each hay lot to be fed should be sampled and analyzed. The tonnage, and location in the hay storage area of each lot, also needs to be recorded.

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