

POOR HAY QUALITY EMPHASIZES NEED FOR FORAGE TESTING

Clyde Lane, Jr.
Professor
Department of Animal Science

The quality of hay produced this spring and summer is likely to be quite variable in quality because of the poor harvesting conditions. Frequent rainfall resulted in a lot of hay being harvested at a more mature stage and some receiving rainfall during the harvesting process. This variable quality provides an opportunity for producers to be more aware of the need to forage test. A unique way to do the teaching would be to forage test at least three different batches of hay that appear to be of differing quality. Know the nutrient requirements and the quality of the forage to do a better job of feeding.