

UNDERSTANDING YOUR HORSE'S FORAGE REPORT

For hay, read results from the “as is” column on your report

Moisture	Amount of water (%) in sample. If moisture is above 15% in hay, it can cause it to heat.
Dry Matter	Represents everything in sample except water. Most dry hays have a dry matter of 85% or greater.
Crude Protein	Total amount of protein (%) in sample. Builds and repairs muscle & bone. Typical ranges: grass hay 8-14%, mixed hay 12-16%, alfalfa hay >16% Consult your Poulin Grain feed specialist if your hay is lower in protein than these levels.
Calcium	Essential mineral found in bones and teeth. Required in large amounts in young, growing horses, pregnant and lactating mares. Typical ranges: legume hay (alfalfa etc.): 1.2 - 1.7%, grass hay: 0.26% - 0.67%
Phosphorus	Essential mineral found in bones and teeth. Typical ranges: legume hay: 0.22%- 0.32%, grass hay: 0.15% - 0.33% The ideal calcium to phosphorus ratio is in the total diet is 2:1.
Magnesium	Mineral involved in nerve function. Often deficient in forages, supplemented in the grain portion of the diet. Magnesium levels typically range from 0.15-0.3% in forages.
Potassium	Mineral involved in electrolyte balance. While essential for electrolyte balance, too much can be dangerous. If your potassium level is 2% or above, contact a Poulin Grain Feed specialist.
Starch	A polysaccharide compound of repeating glucose units.
Sugar (ESC)	Ethanol Soluble Carbohydrates. Consists mainly of glucose, fructose, and sucrose.
WSC & NSC	Water soluble carbohydrates (WSC)= ESC + Fructans Non-structural carbohydrates (NSC)= WSC + Starch NSCs provide energy for maintenance, growth, exercise. For horses sensitive to sugar, NSC of the total diet should be less than 12%. For horses with a diagnosed carbohydrate disease, NSC of the total diet should be 10% or less.
Fat	A concentrated source of calories. Forages usually contain small amounts of fat (<3%). The fat in forages is an abundant source of Omega 3 fatty acids
ADF	Acid Detergent Fiber, fiber (%) in sample made up of cellulose and lignin. If ADF exceeds 38%, hay is poorly digested by horses.
NDF	Neutral Detergent Fiber, total amount of bulk fiber % in sample. NDF typically ranges from 40%-60%. The higher the NDF, the less likely horses are to readily consume it.
Ash	The sum of naturally occurring minerals plus soil & dust in your hay. Less than 10% is ideal.
Horse DE	Digestible energy (Mcal/lb), amount of calories in sample. The higher the value the more calories/energy per pound of feed.
Total Diet	The total of everything your horse eats: forages, grain, supplements etc.

Have your horse's forage and diet evaluated by our nutrition specialists. Contact us today!

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