

UNDERSTANDING YOUR HORSE'S FORAGE REPORT

Moisture	Amount of water (%) in sample. If moisture is above 15% in hay, it may mold.
Dry Matter	Represents everything in sample except water. Most hays have a dry matter of 90% or greater.
Crude Protein	Total amount of protein (%) in sample. Builds and repairs muscle and bone. Optimum levels: grass hay 8-14%; mixed hay – 12-16%; alfalfa hay >16%
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. If NDF exceeds 47%, horses will not readily consume it.
Calcium	Essential mineral found in bones and teeth. Required in large amounts in young, growing horses, pregnant and lactating mares.
Phosphorus	Essential mineral found in bones and teeth. Always have more calcium than phosphorus in the diet.
Potassium	Mineral involved in electrolyte balance. Can be a concern in HYPP horses.
Magnesium	Mineral involved in nerve function. Often deficient in forages, supplemented in the grain portion of the diet.
Fat	Concentrated source of calories. Forages usually contain small amounts of fat (<3%).
Ash	A measure of the total amount of mineral in the sample.
Sugar	Ethanol Soluble Carbohydrates. Optimum levels: <10% if horse is sensitive to sugar; <8% if horse has carb. related disease.
Starch	A polysaccharide compound of repeating glucose units. If concerned with carbohydrate sensitivity, combine with sugar to get total number in sample.
Horse DE	Digestible energy (Mcal/lb), amount of calories in sample. The higher the value the more calories/energy per pound of feed.



How does your
hay stack up?

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