

AG News

Summer 2025

Hay Sampling

Developing a cost-effective winter-feeding program begins with having your hay analyzed for nutrient content. Hays can be highly variable in nutritive value due to fertilization, forage maturity at harvest, and forage species. You may even see differences between consecutive cuttings on a single field.

Two important components assessed with forage samples are crude protein and total digestible nutrients (TDN). Total digestible nutrients is a reference for the energy value of feed. Both crude protein and digestible nutrients can vary within a farm even from the same field.

Hay testing may prove to be a money saver. A recent study showed that some producers were supplementing their cattle when they didn't need to. Others were using the wrong type of supplement. Getting your hay tested and going over the results with your Extension Agent will help you see if you are using the correct supplements or if you even need to supplement at all.

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Summer Planting Schedule

June	July	August
Watermelon (75-92)	Basil (45)	Southern Peas (55-70)
Cantaloupe (75-90)	Pak Choi (40-50)	Lettuce (45-65)
Basil (45)	Bok Choi (40-60)	Kale (55)
Tomatoes (55-105)	Cabbage (60-82)	Mustard (40-50)
Southern Peas (55-70)	Irish Potatoes (90-110)	Carrots (66-75)
Collards (50-75)	Collards (50-75)	Endive (85-98)
Pumpkins (95-112)	Tomatoes (55-105)	Beets (54-68)
Sweet Potatoes (90-120)	Southern Peas (55-70)	Chives (60-90)
Squash (Winter) (60-100)	Sweet Corn (80-94)	Cauliflower (66)
Squash (Summer) (42-54)	Cucumbers (51-68)	Broccoli (50-75)
Cucumbers (51-68)	Pumpkins (95-112)	Cabbage (60-82)
Peppers (65-75)	Squash (Winter) (60-100)	Cucumbers (51-68)
Beans (Snap, Lima) (48-71)	Squash (Summer) (42-54)	Collards (50-75)
Edamame (65-90)		Beans (Snap, Lima) (48-71)

Summer Gardening Tips

- **Manage Pests and Diseases**
 - Scout your garden frequently for signs of insects, diseases, and weeds.
 - If you are unsure what is wrong with your plant, you can take a plant sample or good pictures of the plant and its problem and get them to the Extension Office.
- **Watering Trees**
 - Plants exhibit delayed visual stress symptoms. Symptoms may include wilt, leaf scorch, or loss of green coloration. Drought stress to trees could be the beginning of a slow decline and eventual death that cannot be corrected once it starts.
 - For mature trees, water an inch or more once a week. Newly planted trees require watering twice a week during dry weather. Water deeply. It is better to water more in-depth but less often. Nutrition gets leached out with frequent watering.
- **Watering and Fertilizing Shrubs, Plants, and Turfgrass**
 - When temperatures are hot, water plants well before fertilizing, and water the fertilizer in. Frequent light applications are best to avoid burning the plants.
 - Turfgrass needs about one inch of rainfall or irrigation per week from May through September. Watering in the early morning is best to reduce disease buildup. Be sure the lawn is not wet going into the night.
- **Summertime Vegetable Gardening Tips**
 - Harvest vegetables regularly to keep them setting fruit.

- Keep plants watered and free of insects.
- Harvest herbs in the early morning hours for peak flavor.
- **Summertime Ornamental Plant Care**
 - Summer is the time to dig and divide irises. Irises will do best in full sun but tolerate some shade.
 - If your summer annuals look tired, fertilize with one cup of 34-0-0 per 100 square feet. Watering is also important.
 - Rejuvenate tired annuals by removing faded flowers and cutting back long, leggy stems. Feed with a fertilizer and the plants will be back in bloom in a few weeks.

Armyworms

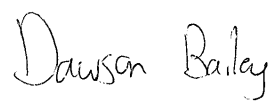
The time for fall armyworms is quickly approaching. Severe outbreaks result in significant forage and hay production losses. These worms will feed on a variety of forage crops but often prefer lush green well-fertilized bermudagrass.

Producers need to start scouting their pastures and hay fields if they aren't already. If you are unfamiliar with these worms, they have dark stripes down their body and a light-colored Y-shaped marking on their head. The proper way to scout is to examine at least ten one-square-foot samples at random across the field. The moths prefer to lay eggs in areas of abundant growth. Be sure to include a few of these areas in your samples. Flocks of birds feeding in the field are an indicator that you may have an armyworm infestation.

Chemical control is usually needed when 2-3 worms are present per square foot. The size and abundance of the caterpillar and the maturity of the hay should be taken into consideration when determining when to spray. If the hay is ready to harvest when the armyworms move in, consider cutting and baling as soon as possible. Natural enemies may control the infestation if the number of worms per square foot is



not high. Proper timing of an insecticide application will result in better control. The best type of equipment for applying insecticides for armyworm control is a properly calibrated boom sprayer or a properly calibrated cluster nozzle sprayer with a consistent spray distribution along the entire swath width. You must follow the label and pay attention to harvesting and grazing restrictions. In situations where there are mixed-sized worms, it is recommended that you use products with longer residual activity.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dawson Bailey". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Dawson Bailey – CES Agriculture

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