

UNDERSTANDING YOUR FORAGE REPORT

Moisture: Amount of water (%) in sample, if moisture 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.

Protein: Total amount of protein (%) in sample, protein is used to build repair muscle and bone. Optimum amount of protein is 8-14% for grass hay, 12-16% protein, and alfalfa hay >16% protein.

ADF: Acid Detergent Fiber (%) is made up of cellulose and lignin. If ADF exceeds 45%, hay is poorly digested by horses.

NDF: Neutral Detergent Fiber (%) is the total amount of fiber (bulk in hay). If NDF exceeds 55%, horses will not readily consume it.

Calcium: Essential mineral found in bones and teeth. Required in large amounts in young, growing horses, pregnant mares and lactating mares.

Phosphorus: Essential mineral found in bones and teeth. Always want more calcium than phosphorus in the diet.

Potassium: Mineral involved in electrolyte balance. Can be a concern if horses have disease called HYPP.

NSC: Non-structural carbohydrates = NSC starch+NSC WSC. Amount of sugar in sample. This value is important in horses that are sensitive to sugar.

NSC WSC: Water soluble carbohydrate. A high WSC could mean a high fructan level in grasses or high simple sugars in non forages and high simple sugars in non grass forages and grains.

NSC ESC: Ethanol Soluble Carbohydrates. High ESC generally means a feed will generate a high glycemic (blood sugar) response, unless there are high levels of fructans in this fraction. A high ESC is not that good for horses that is sensitive to large blood sugars changes **(i.e. insulin-resistant horses)**.

Horse DE: Digestible Energy. Amount of calories in sample, the higher the value the more calories per pound of feed.

Green Mountain Feed Testing Laboratory
24 Railroad Square
Newport, VT 05855
Affiliated with Dairy One Forage Laboratory

