

Forage Testing

A wet June in Northeast Oklahoma has provided the area with an abundance of forage to hay. In addition, the rain set back hay harvest three to four weeks from our traditional hay harvest dates.

Expect hay yields (tonnage) to be good, but hay quality (protein content) to be below average. As you harvest hay or soon after harvest is a good time to have hay tested for protein content. Once the protein of hay is established, we can provide you information on how to supplement hay with protein to meet your cow's nutritional needs.

For example, a 1200 pound cow in early lactation requires three pounds of crude protein/day. If we are feeding 10% or higher crude protein hay and feeding hay free choice, no protein supplement will be required. However, if you are feeding 7% crude protein hay free choice to the same cow, you will need to supplement her with 2.3 pounds/head/day of 38% crude protein feed or 4.2 pounds/day of a 20% crude protein feed to meet her nutritional needs. Cost for a forage test of crude protein and moisture is \$6 per sample.

For more information on forage testing, contact the Tulsa County OSU Extension Center at 918/746-3725.