



Every fall, The Mill offers Complimentary Hay Testing. Normally, we plan a weekend day at each of our 7 store locations, set up the hay testing equipment and make ourselves available for customers to stop in with their samples for a basic analysis. The Lab Analyzed Hay Testing, on the other hand, does have a \$30 charge but offers a wider range of information (including NSC) and is available year-round. See further details below.

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## Hay Testing Options

1. Complimentary Hay Testing (*Only Available during predetermined dates in the fall*)
  2. Lab Analyzed Hay Testing (*Available Year-Round*)
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## Differences in Hay Testing Options

### **Complimentary Hay Testing:**

A broad overview of the hay to give a baseline in balancing a horse's diet.  
*Only available during predetermined dates in the fall*

- Offered in house at The Mill during select dates in the fall
- Customers will need to:
  - Bring a quart sized, Ziplock bag sample of your hay to The Mill store nearest you on the coordinating day of the event
- Results, as you wait
- Complimentary = No Charge 😊
- Results include:
  - **Crude Protein** – A very important number to know that is used in balancing the protein aspect of a horses' diet
  - **ADF – (Acid Detergent Fiber)** Reveals the DIGESTIBILITY of the hay. Example: Of the hay that the horse actually consumes, what percentage of that hay is the horse able to digest
  - **NDF – (Neutral Detergent Fiber)** Reveals the CONSUMABILITY of the hay. Example: What percentage of the hay is the horse most likely to eat
  - **Equine Digestibility Fiber or kcal/lb – (Digestible Energy)** Another very important number to know that is used to balance the calorie aspect of a horses' diet

## Lab Analyzed Hay Testing:

A detailed analysis of the hay for more finetuned and specific diet balancing. Highly recommended if managing horses with metabolic conditions. **Available Year-Round**

- Call one of our Equine Specialists, Michelle Jennings or Kelley Nash, to arrange for testing
  - Michelle Jennings (410-952-4681)
  - Kelley Nash (443-981-1352)
- We will come to your farm and core several bales of hay
- Samples are sent to an outside laboratory for analysis
- Results, typically, within 2 weeks
- \$30/Test
- Results include:
  - **Crude Protein**
  - **ADF**
  - **NDF**
  - **Digestible Energy**
  - **Complete breakdown of the micronutrients**
    - Calcium
    - Phosphorus
    - Magnesium
    - Potassium
    - Sodium
    - Iron
    - Zinc
    - Copper
    - Manganese
    - Molybdenum
  - **Nonstructural Carbohydrates – Sugars and Starches** are VERY important to be aware of and to manage, especially for horses with metabolic issues or are prone to tying up.