

Hay Testing

To maintain a happy horse with a healthy gut, the average horse must consume 1.5-3% of its body weight in forage a day. Thus, the foundation to any equine diet starts with a quality forage program. Whether you grow your own hay or purchase elsewhere, it is essential to know the details of that foundation in order to develop the appropriate feed program to fit the needs of your horse(s). The Mill recognizes and encourages the vital importance of this information and, therefore, offers 2 different testing options.

Hay Testing Options

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

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
- Customers will need to:
 - Bring a quart sized, Ziplock bag sample of your hay to The Mill store nearest you
- Results, typically, within a week
- 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 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; as opposed to the percentage of hay is likely to be left behind as waste
 - **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*

- One of our Equine Specialists will arrange a time to 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
- 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.

The **Mill**