CO-OPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS, U.S. Department of Agriculture and University of California Co-operating

DAIRY DIGEST

to: DAIRY FARM ADVISOR
from: YOUR EXTENSION DAIRYMEN
C L Pelissier Robert D. Appleman

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Alfalfa Hay Quality

Earl Olson and E. E. Stevenson, Stanislaus County Farm Advisors, have published in Forage Crop Notes an interesting summary of what is happening to hay quality in their county.

The TDN values were determined by the University modified fiber analysis method. The accompanying chart does not represent average quality of all hay produced since the dairymen have first selected their hay on appearance and then tested it to have their judgment verified. In many cases the hay had already been purchased by the dairymen and in others, several stacks of good looking hay were sampled and tested and only the better lots of hay were purchased.

TDN IN ALFALFA HAY

Cutting	Years	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	Averages
(Numbers below indicate lots of hay)														
	1958					1	2	1	2	2	2		1	
1st	1959						2	4	4	3	1	2	1	52.5
	1960							5	6	4	6	2		
	1958				7	2	3	2		1				
2nd	1959					2	3	3	1					50.0
	1960						3	1	3			1		
	1958	1	1	3	3	3	5	2						
3rd	1959				1		1	4	3	1				49.8
	1960							2	2					
	1958		2	1	2	3	4	1						
4th	1959				1		2							49.0
	1960					1	4	2						
	1958							1						
5th	1959							1						51.3
	1960	1			1		1	1			3	1		
Unknown cuttings				1	1		5	1	1	1	1			50.5
														Average all cuttings 50.8

Summary

First cutting hay is generally the highest quality. Hot weather hays are usually of lower quality and, therefore, should be tested before purchased. Hot weather hay may be improved by cutting earlier (younger stage of maturity).

(From Forage Crop Notes, Stanislaus County Commodity Letter, February 24, 1961.)