

NEW ENERGY VALUES – starting this fall we will begin reporting values for net energy for maintenance (NEm) and net energy for growth (NEg). NEm is the fraction of net energy expended to keep the animal in energy equilibrium i.e. neither gaining nor losing weight. NEg is the net energy required in addition to that needed for body maintenance and is used by growing cattle for body weight gain. Both of these values are used for the development of beef cattle and growing dairy heifer rations. Guidelines for ration balancing may be found in either the 1984 Beef Cattle or 1978 Dairy Cattle NRC publications.

SYSTEM STATUS – some changes have recently been made in Near Infrared (NIR) spectroscopy and Inductively Coupled Plasma (ICP) Spectrometry areas.

NIR – during the past year, the NIR instrument began showing signs of age requiring more and more service calls. The decision was finally made to send the instrument to the manufacturer for a major overhaul. This occurred during the last week of August and the first week of September. During this two week period, all NIR analyses were done by wet chemistry for the NIR price. The lab would like to thank all our customers for their patience and support during that time period. The NIR returned in great condition, scanning like new and putting us in top shape for the upcoming feeding season.

ICP – The ICP currently generates all of our non-NIR mineral results. It is a highly sophisticated, reliable and accurate means for determining mineral values. We recently purchased a new software package that will further enhance our ability to generate top quality results. Specifically, the software will enable us to further fine-tune the instruments capability to correct for inter-element interference. The installation period took longer than anticipated due to unexpected complications. This delayed some results 5 to 10 days. The system upgrade is part of our effort to ensure that you continue to get top quality results and your cooperation during that time period was greatly appreciated.

AVAILABLE PROTEIN – available protein (AP) will be available as an extra cost option for hays and fresh forages. Over the past year unavailable protein (UP) averaged 1.1% for hays. This small amount of UP is corrected for and eliminated when the crude protein adjustment is made. Thus, UP is not critical for ration balancing where hay or fresh forages are concerned.

Available protein will continue as a routine analysis for haylages (at no extra cost) because of the greater opportunity for heat damaged protein to occur.

NIR UPDATE – The NY DHIC Forage Lab will continue to provide 24 hour service for NIR analyses, but will no longer guarantee it. Approximately 97.3% are complete in one day, and the remainder available early the very next day.

The following outlines our policy regarding NIR retests:

Options:

1. New York DHIC Forage Lab will rescan the original submitted sample "free of charge".

2. The customer may submit a new sample of the forage in question and New York DHIC will test this sample by NIR "free of charge".
3. For an additional \$5.00, New York DHIC will retest the original sample by wet chemical procedures for ONE component in question. The new value (if different from the old) will replace the old value and a new report will be sent out. (See examples below).
4. For an additional \$10.00, New York DHIC will retest the original sample by wet chemical procedures for TWO or More components in question. This includes only the components normally reported on an NIR analysis. The new values (if different from the old) will replace the old values and a new report will be sent out.
5. For an additional \$5.00, results for Na, Fe, Zn, Cu, Mn and Mo may be obtained.

Examples:

- a. A customer requests a retest for phosphorus by wet chemistry. This represents one component and incurs a \$5.00 charge. The new P value would be reported if different from the old value with no change in other values.
- b. A retest for phosphorus and protein constitutes two components and incurs a \$10.00 charge. The new P and protein values would be reported as above.
- c. A retest for ADF, CA with additional trace minerals, would incur a \$15.00 charge.

NORTHEAST FORAGE QUALITY CONTEST WINNERS

Place	Name	Forage Type	CP	ADF	NDF	Total Score
Grand prize	Brent Murray Waterloo, NY	Hay	23.0	22.5	30.1	97.6
1	Pete Lathrop Sherburne, NY	Hay	24.2	23.6	31.9	91.4
2	Ben Myers Mercersburg, PA	Hay	19.7	26.1	36.9	87.3
3	Allan Friend Burke, NY	Hay	22.5	29.7	35.3	85.9
4	Steve Lapitsky Greenwich, NY	Hay	20	29.5	41.7	84.6
5	Sandford Stauffer Nicholville, NY	Hay	22.1	27.4	40.6	81.3
1	James Gardner Ostelic, NY	Haylage	21.6	32.2	37.4	91.4
2	Mike Russell Chazy, NY	Haylage	18.1	29.2	39.0	90.8
3	Brent Murray Waterloo, NY	Haylage	21.1	32.3	43.5	89.1
4	Vincent Farms Malone, NY	Haylage	18.0	30.7	39.5	88.9
5	Pete Lathrop Sherburne, NY	Haylage	20.1	32.4	40.7	86.4

The total score was determined by the following weighting scheme:

Lab analysis data	45 points
Visual appraisal	10 points
Information form	5 points
Ration data	40 points
TOTAL	<hr/> 100 points

Rations were formulated for a mature cow weighing 1,350 pounds and producing 80 pounds of 3.8% fat milk. Assuming the contest forage was the sole forage fed, feed costs were calculated to estimate the economics of production.

In fairness to the sponsors and all those involved, we'd like to encourage greater participation next year. This is a great contest with real world value. Top quality forage production is the key to optimizing milk production. This contest should serve as an incentive to produce top quality forage and also provides a forum for the best producer to be recognized and rewarded for a job well done.

All agribusiness people serve clients who they know produce top quality forage. Encourage them to enter! The entry fee is a small price to pay for the recognition and knowledge that you're one of the top forage producers in the northeast.

We'd like to congratulate all the participants on a fine harvest year. Irrespective of placing, all samples were top quality.

THANKS to all of you who responded to the NY DHIC Forage Lab Nutritional Survey. We learned a lot about the people we serve and ourselves. Your responses will help provide the direction the lab takes in the future.