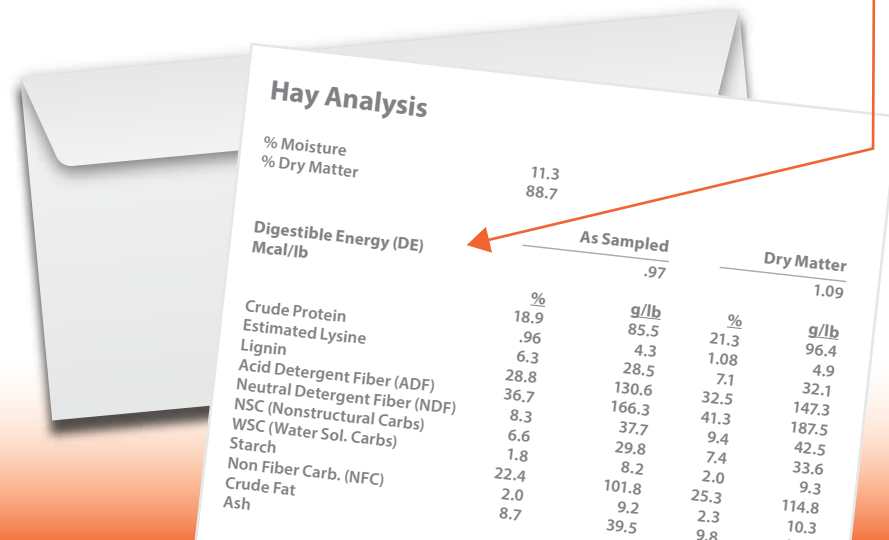


## How to Test Your Hay

All horses need fiber in their diet. Since most horses are fed hay, the best way to determine what nutrients your hay is providing is to get it tested. If you have horses challenged by metabolic syndrome, you will want to know the NSC (nonstructural carbohydrate) value of your hay so you can determine the starch and sugar content.

**When you test your hay you get not only the nonstructural carbohydrate value but other nutrient levels as well.**



Digestible Energy (DE) Mcal/lb	As Sampled		Dry Matter	
	%	g/lb	%	g/lb
% Moisture	11.3			
% Dry Matter	88.7			
		.97		1.09
Crude Protein	18.9	85.5	21.3	96.4
Estimated Lysine	.96	4.3	1.08	4.9
Lignin	6.3	28.5	7.1	32.1
Acid Detergent Fiber (ADF)	28.8	130.6	32.5	147.3
Neutral Detergent Fiber (NDF)	36.7	166.3	41.3	187.5
NSC (Nonstructural Carbs)	8.3	37.7	9.4	42.5
WSC (Water Sol. Carbs)	6.6	29.8	7.4	33.6
Starch	1.8	8.2	2.0	9.3
Non Fiber Carb. (NFC)	22.4	101.8	25.3	114.8
Crude Fat	2.0	9.2	2.3	10.3
Ash	8.7	39.5	9.8	44.0

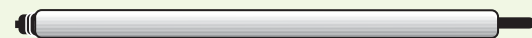
There are several laboratories that specialize in hay analysis. You can also check with your local extension office to see if they offer testing services.

Plan to collect samples for each load of hay you purchase.



To collect your sample, you will need:

### A hay probe



You can either purchase a hay probe or you can check with your local extension office to see if they can loan you one.

### A drill



### A resealable plastic bag



To sample your hay:

**1** Pick 12 to 20 random bales from throughout the load.



**2** To collect your sample, insert the probe into the end of the bale between the strings. Place the sample from each bale in a quart size plastic bag and mix well. Do this for each load you want to test.



**3** Label each bag with the type of hay and date.



**4** Fill out the paperwork required by the testing facility and drop it with the samples in the mail.

**5** Once you receive your results, if you have any problems understanding them don't hesitate to contact the lab or your local extension office for help.

Ensure your horse is meeting his vitamin E requirements

Dried forages (hay, cubes and pellets) are a poor source of the essential nutrient vitamin E. The potency of vitamin E declines very quickly once forages are cut, regardless of the quality of the hay. Ensure your horses are meeting their vitamin E requirements.



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Supplement daily with Elevate® natural vitamin E.

