2008 Alabama Hay Contest  
Sponsored by Alabama Farmers Federation  

Hay and Forage Committee  

Hay Evaluation  

Hay and baleage samples will be evaluated in the following categories:  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Warm Season Perennial Grass Hay (e.g., bermudagrass, bahiagrass, etc.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Perennial Peanut or Alfalfa Hay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Cool Season Perennial Grass Hay (e.g., tall fescue, orchardgrass, etc.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Mixed Annual Grass, or Other Hay (e.g., clover/fescue, clover/ryegrass, millet, ryegrass, etc.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Grass Baleage (high moisture grass forage ensiled in wrapped bales)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Legume Baleage (high moisture legume or grass/legume ensiled in wrapped bales)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hay entries will be judged using NIR testing procedures by the University of Georgia Feed and Environmental Water Lab (UGA-FEW) Lab. The entries will be ranked using the Relative Forage Quality (RFQ) evaluation system, which accounts for protein, energy, and fiber digestibility. If necessary, ties in RFQ scores will be broken based on visual evaluation. First place winners in each category will receive a plaque; second and third place winners in each category will also be recognized.  

Entry Requirements  

This contest is open to any hay or baleage producer in Alabama. The hay or baleage must have been grown in Alabama and samples must be submitted by the farm where the hay was grown.  

Hay/baleage samples entry forms and analysis fees must be received at the Auburn University address provided below by Friday, December 12. The fee for participation in the contest is $15 per sample (the analysis results alone are worth this). Anyone who enters the Alabama Hay contest can also enter the Southeast Hay Contest at no extra charge by checking the appropriate box on the entry form below, (this applies only to samples received by September 12). A contest form must be submitted with the sample. Additional forms are available at: http://www.alabamaforages.com  

This form requires the signatures of your County or Regional Alabama Extension Agent. Agents must assign an entry number by county on the entry form. This code will be used as the sample ID for analysis and for display at the hay show to protect the identity of the producer submitting the sample. (example: Talladega County 31).  

Lab analysis samples must be taken from a single lot of hay and from a minimum of 5-10 randomly sampled square or round bales. Submit core samples for testing in a pint- or quart-sized zip-type bag labeled with Sample ID as described above. A lot is defined as forage taken from the same
farm, field, and cut under uniform conditions within a 48-hour time period. Analysis results should be available to the producer and county or regional agent within 7-10 days after submission.

NOTE: PLEASE READ THIS PARAGRAPH CAREFULLY
The top three entries in each category will be displayed at one or more ALFA and/or Auburn University-sponsored events in 2009. A grab sample of hay should be collected for display purposes in a 1 or 2-gallon zip-type bag labeled with the sample ID as described above. **One display sample should be collected if the hay is to be entered in only the Alabama Hay Contest; two display samples should be collected if hay will be entered in both the Alabama Hay Contest and the Southeastern Hay Contest. No baleage display sample is required due to storage issues.** Display samples will not be returned. Display samples may be stored in county Extension offices (do not send display samples with analysis sample and form). Persons entering the contest will be mailed laboratory results promptly after analysis. Contest winners will be notified in late November.

Hay samples must be taken from fields with a minimum maturity or re-growth of at least 25 days to ensure fair competition. Hay from fields with less than 25 days of growth will be disqualified.

Hay samples for testing must be collected using a hay probe.

Hay samples with nitrate levels over 5000 parts per million (ppm) on a dry matter basis will be disqualified.

Dry hay samples with over 18% moisture will be disqualified. There are no moisture requirements for baleage categories.

**Cored entries for quality analysis should be submitted to:**

Deborah Buchanan  
109 Extension Hall  
Auburn University, AL. 36849

Include the completed contest entry form, and make checks ($15/sample submitted) payable to Alabama Farmers Federation. **NOTE:** Do not mail display hay samples; samples will be needed only if among the top three entries in a class.
### 2008 ALABAMA HAY CONTEST ENTRY FORM

**Entry Form (use separate form for each entry)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category: (Check Only One)</th>
<th>Harvest Date:</th>
<th>Field ID</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>__Warm Season Per Grass Hay</td>
<td>Forage species and Variety: (i.e. Bermudagrass-Tifton 85, Bahiagrass-Argentine, Perennial Peanut-florigraze, etc)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>__Perennial Peanut/Alfalfa Hay</td>
<td>Age or Maturity: (#of days from greenup or last cutting)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>__Cool Season Per Grass Hay</td>
<td>Rate and Type of Fertilizer applied to this cutting hay: (i.e. 400 lbs/acre of 20-5-10)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>__Mixed And Annual Grass Hay</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>__Grass Baleage</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>__Legume Baleage</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Hay Producer Contact Information**

- **Farm or Ranch Name:** 
- **Owner/Manager:** 
- **Address:** 
- **City:** | **State:** | **Zip:** 
- **Phone Number:**

**County Extension Office Contact Information**

- **County Extension Agent (print):** 
- **Address:** 
- **City:** | **State:** | **Zip:** 
- **Phone Number:** | **Fax Number:** 
- **E-mail:**

*Alabama County or Regional Agent Signature:*

**NOTE:** Do you want this hay sample to also be entered in the Southeast Hay Contest to be held during the Sunbelt Expo, October 14-16 in Moultrie GA? For Samples received by September 12, this will be done automatically and at no extra charge if you circle “Yes” below. Samples received after Sept 12 will be entered only in the Alabama Hay Contest. The deadline for receipt of samples for the Alabama Contest is December 14.

(Circle One) **YES**  **NO**