

## Goals and activities of NFTA

The National Forage Testing Association Certification program goal is to improve accuracy, reproducibility and the general quality of forage analysis. The organization's activities include:

- Identifying the most accurate methods of analysis.
- Documenting evidence of satisfactory laboratory performance.
- Offering seminars to laboratories and members on important new technologies.

## To learn more

For more information about membership and association membership, or to obtain a list of NFTA certified laboratories, contact:

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# One of your best “return on investment” opportunities!

## National Forage Testing Association (NFTA)

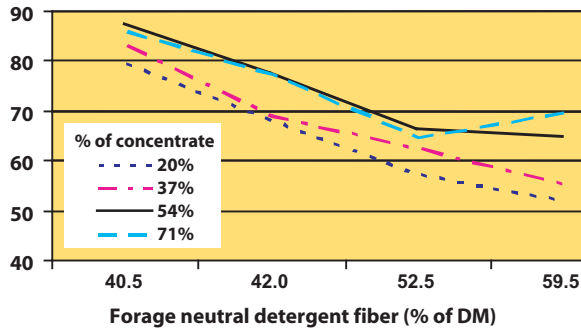


# Why is forage testing important?

Forage and feed testing are important because **forage value pays**. Forage and feed producers know that price dictates value through increased milk or meat production or in reduced need for supplements. Accurate testing provides the producer, the seller and the buyer with valuable information.

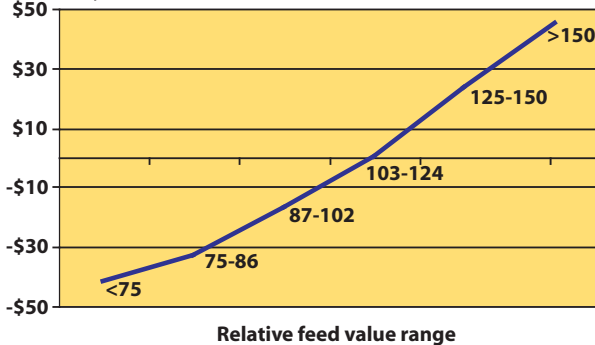
## Higher milk production results with decreasing fiber, regardless of concentrate level.

Alfalfa forage quality effect on 4% fat corrected milk at four concentrate levels



## Quality tested hay auction prices have shown premiums for quality over the last 17 years.

Premiums paid in Wisconsin/Minnesota tested hay auctions, 1984 to 2000



# Can you afford not to know your feed value?

## The National Forage Testing Association Laboratory Certification Program

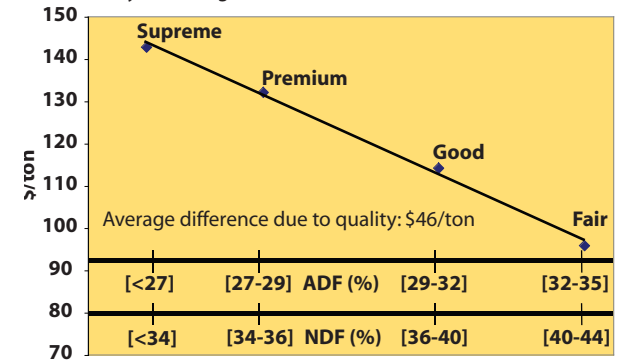
The National Forage Testing Association (NFTA) is a joint effort of the American Forage and Grassland Council, National Hay Association and forage testing laboratories designed to improve the accuracy and reproducibility of forage testing among laboratories. Since its formation, results among laboratories have improved dramatically. Various lab methods have been reviewed and improved. More than 150 laboratories annually participate in the certification process.

## Are there differences in the quality of analyses from different forage laboratories?

**Yes!** Forage laboratories vary significantly in their ability to consistently report correct nutrient analyses based on reference methods. Choosing a good laboratory can be a challenge. One of the better performance criteria for forage testing laboratories is certification by the National Forage Testing Association (NFTA). Certified laboratories have proven the ability to produce accurate test results over time utilizing recognized reference methods.

To find out if your laboratory participated in the certification program, check the NFTA web site ([www.foragetesting.org](http://www.foragetesting.org)) and ask the laboratory for its grade. Higher grades mean fewer errors in analysis.

Influence of quality on alfalfa hay price  
Ten year average, all California markets, 1996-2005



(Ave. 13 reporting regions, approximate volume 6.5-7.5 million tons/year)

# Certified laboratories

Laboratory certification is based on check samples that are sent to labs and tested for:

- Dry matter
- Crude protein
- Acid detergent fiber
- Neutral detergent fiber

Certification is based on a rolling average of analyzed samples of alfalfa hay, corn silage and grass hay. Laboratories are required to submit results using their routine methods without bias adjustment unless they routinely adjust all results. Certification samples should be handled and analyzed exactly like any material received from a client.

A list of certified laboratories can be obtained from the NFTA secretary or from the NFTA website.



[www.foragetesting.org](http://www.foragetesting.org)