

August 2010 Service Bulletin

Forages:

As in past years, first cutting of hay and/or haylage often sets the stage for subsequent cuttings with respect to time and quality. In 2010, early cut forage (May) has proven to be good quality. Adequate moisture and heat have resulted in a second cut being harvested in June along with direct seeding. Second cutting (direct seeding) and third cutting have been started in late July, into early August. The weather has proven to be more unstable but has still presented opportunities to make rain-free forages.

Yields in most areas have been excellent and quality remains high. A fourth cutting is anticipated well before the critical date for alfalfa. Unfortunately, the cyclical weather pattern has resulted in difficulty for those who were unable to cut early, experiencing difficulty in harvesting the next cutting. As an example, early cut hay for horses contains 16% protein, where later cut hay contains only 9%.

Forage summaries have been posted on the Agri-Food Laboratories web site.

Corn Silage:

Corn in many areas has tasseled in mid-July. Corn silage varieties may be getting close to harvest by late August. Once one third milk line has been achieved, monitoring whole plant moisture may be advantageous.

Kernel maturity can be extended with the use of kernel processors, which results in higher starch concentration in the kernels. However whole plant moisture facilitates or impedes packing. This in turn promotes good fermentation of the silage and reduces material losses.

The difference between 10 and 22 lb/ft³ in dry matter loss is 50%.

Yields based on plant height, look very promising.



Sampling Services:

Harvested wheat fields often offer perfect conditions for soil sampling. Many growers have established a routine of soil testing after wheat harvest and straw removal so that their 3 year sampling rotation remains intact.

Agri-Food Laboratories offers custom soil sample extraction services, in a variety of methods to best suit the needs of each operation. From conventional bulk composite sampling to intensive grid sampling, our professional technicians are equipped to efficiently sample as requested.

On a 3 year sampling rotation, with a basic analysis package on a sample representing 25 acres, the total investment is approximately 60 cents/acre per year.

To enquire further or to book soil sampling, call 1-888-868-SOIL (7645), or email: sampling@agtest.com

