

June 2010 Service Bulletin

Forage:

Hot, dry conditions have resulted in early harvest of haylage and even dry hay. Based on maturity of plants, alfalfa and grasses are 7-10 days ahead of last year in many areas. Yields are unofficially higher than last year.

Our quality reports from scissor cut samples have been completed as all fields used, have been harvested.

The average preliminary results from samples (fresh forage) received at the lab are as follows:

| | |
|------------|-------|
| Dry Matter | 59.4% |
| Protein | 21.5% |
| ADF | 29.1% |
| NDF | 39.2% |
| Lignin | 5.2% |

Plant Tissue Analysis:

As the growing season progresses, deficiency or toxicity symptoms can start to appear. Testing plant tissue is a helpful diagnostic tool in determining which nutrients may be limiting growth.

Where plants are not visually symptomatic, other than they appear to be less robust than in other areas of the field, a sample of 'good' tissue and 'poor' tissue offers a good comparison to aid in diagnosis.

Combining plant tissue testing with soil analysis may further lead to solutions. Since weather can influence growth and uptake of nutrients, it may be not be soil fertility but rather soil conditions that are responsible.



Soil Analysis:



"Dad, I'll show you my school report card if you show me your soil sample report card."