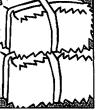
HAV



HAY EVALUATION GUIDELINES

The score sheet below is a guideline for evaluating hay. The sheet indicates the amoung of importance to place upon each quality factor. Note that maturity, at 30 points, is the most important factor. Leafiness, color, odor and condition each receive a possible 20 points. Foreign material has a possible 10 points.

Sample Score Sheet

		Possible score	Score given
	Maturity	30	given
	Alfalfa should be cut in the late bud or early bloom stage, clovers	30	
	at 20 percent bloom. Most grasses should be cut in the boot to early		
	heading stage. These stages of maturity score highest (25 to 30 points)) _	
	Alfalfa and clover cut at full bloom and grasses cut between late	•	
	heading and full bloom score low (1 to 10 points) because they have		
	lower feed values.		
	Leafiness	20	
	Hay with a high ratio of leaves to stems and a substantial portion of		
	the leaves attached to stems scores high (5 to 20 points). Stemmy hay		
	and hay with shattered leaves score low (0 to 5 points).		
	Color	20	
	Hay with a bright green color scores high (15 to 20 points). Golden	20	
	yellow to yellow hays score 5 to 15 points. Dark brown or black hays		
	score 0 to 5 points.		
	Odor and Condition	20	
	Smell of new mown hay scores high (15 to 20 points). Hays with		
	musty or other off-odors score 5 to 15 points. Moldy or unusually		
	dusty hays score very low (0 to 5 points).		
	Foreign Material	10	
	Hay with noninjurious foreign material should receive a lower score	10	
	than that without. Hay with injurious foreign material should not		
	be fed to animals.		
	TOTAL	100	
			····

Section 6 Forage Crops

General Considerations

Check catalog for size of sample bundles and other requirements.

- Leafiness Hay should have a high ratio of leaves to stems and with a high proportion of the leaves at tached. Stemmy hay and hay with leaves shattered should be avoided.
- Color Hay should have a bright green color. Golden yellow to yellow colored hays are less desirable. Dark brown or black colored hays damaged by rain or other factors should be avoided.
- Foreign material Hay should be free of injurious foreign matieral. Non-injurious foreign material such as weeds should be minimized, as it represents waste (little food value, unpalatable) and gives the hay a poor appearance.
- Odor and condition The smell of new mown hay is the standard for comparisons. Hay with musty or other offodors are less palatable and less desirable. Moldy or unusually dusty hays and/or insect and/or disease damaged hay should be avoided.

Selection of Specimens

Alfalfa - Cut in late bud or early bloom stage. Avoid hay cut at the full bloom stage with lower feed value.

Clovers - Cut at one-fourth to one-half bloom. Avoid hay cut at the full bloom with lower feed value.

Grasses - Cut in the boot to early heading stage. Avoid hay cut between late heading and full bloom stages because late heading and full bloom stages because they have lower feed value.