

Feed Testing: An Important Management Tool
By: Clint Laflin, Midway Extension Livestock Agent

Producers across Kansas, and the Midway District are battling historic drought conditions. These conditions look to severely impact feed resource quality and availability throughout the 2022-2023 winter feeding season. Hay and supplement costs continue to rise as producers begin to prepare for winter feeding.

To maximize your available feed, and properly meet the nutrient requirements of your cattle during these conditions, PLEASE take the time to test your hay and other feedstuffs for nutrient content. Test results provide you with knowledge on the availability of crude protein, total digestible nutrients (TDN), moisture content, and vitamins and minerals available in each feed that you test.

Each test will cost \$10 to \$35, and can protect you, and your livestock from potential toxicity issues like nitrates and prussic acid.

The Russell and Ellsworth offices have hay probes that can be checked out to assist you in these testing procedures. Don't know how to take a good sample, or need a little help interpreting your results? I can help you in both cases! We can also take in your samples and mail them off to the appropriate lab for testing. Please contact our offices at 785-483-3157 in Russell, or 785-472-4442, and I will gladly help you through the process.

These tests and the information they provide allow cattlemen and women to build an accurate feed program, and meet the nutritional needs of everything from calves and replacements, to mature cows. I am also an available resource to help you build a feed ration, and would be happy to visit with you.

Please contact me, Clint Laflin, at the office numbers listed above, or send me an E-Mail at cllaflin@ksu.edu to visit about nutrition, or any other livestock management questions you have.