

# 2025 Beef Expo – Hay Quality Contest

## Introduction:

Did you know that the nutritional quality of your forage can **vary greatly** depending on forage species, maturity, moisture, fertilization, among other factors?

Low-quality forage can be the reason for not meeting your production goals. **The only way to know is to have your hay tested.** Visual evaluation is important but nutritional analysis is critical for making informed feeding decisions.

## Eligibility:

- Open to any Tennessee 4-H or FFA member involved in the beef project
- Exhibition in the 2025 Beef Expo is **not required**

## Entry:

- Take a representative sample of your hay
- Complete the attached submission form
- Submit to the lab by shipping or dropping off by **February 1, 2025**
  - ✓ Soil, Plant & Pest Center, 5201 Marchant Drive, Nashville, TN 37211

## Instructional Videos:

- Taking an Adequate Sample: <https://soillab.tennessee.edu/forage-analysis/>
- Forage Species Guide: <https://utbeef.tennessee.edu/forages-species-guide/>

## Results:

- Hay quality analysis will be returned to you by **March 1, 2025**
  - ✓ This will allow you to make hay feeding changes to ensure that your project animal meets your production goals by the summer.
- All samples will be ranked on **Relative Feed Quality (RFQ)**
  - ✓ Quality index that ranks forages based on digestibility and intake potential.
- Winners will receive **cash premiums**



This contest is provided by the **Mike and Denise Harris Endowment.**



# Forage Submission Form



Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 County (sample is from): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_  
 Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Receipt#: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Check#: \_\_\_\_\_ CC approval#: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Online order#: \_\_\_\_\_ Billed to: \_\_\_\_\_

Youth entering the 2025 Beef Expo Hay Quality Contest can submit one hay sample for free analysis. It must be shipped or dropped off at the lab by February 1, 2025.

Print Clearly

**Send at least 1/2-gallon, or more, of sample**

Write sample name and YOUR NAME on every sample bag

Sample Name <i>(You give this)</i>	Hay, Silage, or Haylage	Species Codes <i>See below</i>	Clovers* <i>Yes or No</i>	NIRS					Lab ID # <i>(We give this)</i>

**Species Codes- If not listed, please write in**

- |                           |                                      |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>TF</b> Tall Fescue     | <b>SG</b> Small Grains               |
| <b>OG</b> Orchardgrass    | <b>WA</b> Warm-Season Annuals        |
| <b>BG</b> Bermudagrass    | <b>LG</b> Other Legumes              |
| <b>AR</b> Annual Ryegrass | <b>MG</b> Mixed Grasses              |
| <b>AL</b> Alfalfa         | <b>NG</b> Native Warm-Season Grasses |
| <b>CO</b> Corn            |                                      |

*\*Confirm if you have clovers in your forage sample*

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