

EORDC Forage Study

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Since April 29th we have been sampling a 30 foot by 30 foot section of EORDC's hay field used for mowing demonstrations at Hay Day in June. Samples were analyzed at DHI Forage Testing Laboratory in Ithaca, New York. The following are the results from analyzed orchardgrass 2 by 2's.

SAMPLE DATA (dry basis)

Date	CP	RFV	Quantity (DM/A)
4/28/99	15.7	108	2415
5/5/99	15.1	130	1981
5/26/99	12.6	92	5666
6/2/99	13.0	91	5315
6/9/99	10.5	83	6491
6/16/99	7.6	79	6902

The sample taken 4/28/99 was sampled again approximately 2 weeks later to simulate rotational grazing. On 5/12/99 this sample tested: 17.1% CP; 113 RFV. Compare this to an adjacent 2 by 2 with a CP content of 13% and RFV of 91.

Some grass producers seem to prefer taking all three cuttings off in one cutting. You can see the drastic reduction in forage quality that occurs when that happens and there is no yield advantage to a one cutting method of forage harvest.