

close to the feeding period (at least 3 weeks ahead) to have a better assessment of the adjustments in supplementation.



Know your animal nutritional requirements – Remember that the goals of making good quality hay is to meet the animal's nutritional requirements and therefore, minimizing the cost of feed supplementation. To accomplish this, it is important that the livestock/forage producer understand the animal requirements. To achieve those nutrient requirements, the producer might need to sacrifice yield to make sure that hay quality is optimum. These means that forage producers might need to adjust the production cycles and maintain a more consistent and efficient nutrient management program.

In summary, production of baled hay uses a large amount of resources (land, labor, seed, fuel, fertilizer, equipment). The way hay is handled from cutting at the proper stage of maturity to feeding in the winter time can have a big effect on losses in hay quantity and quality. It worth implementing sound management practices that protect that investment while fulfilling the nutritional needs of your livestock. Plan ahead for fertilizing hay at the right time, baling under desirable weather conditions, storing hay properly, testing hay for nutritional value and using feeding practices that reduce hay losses. Be smart and reduce future supplementation costs by having a uniform hay inventory.

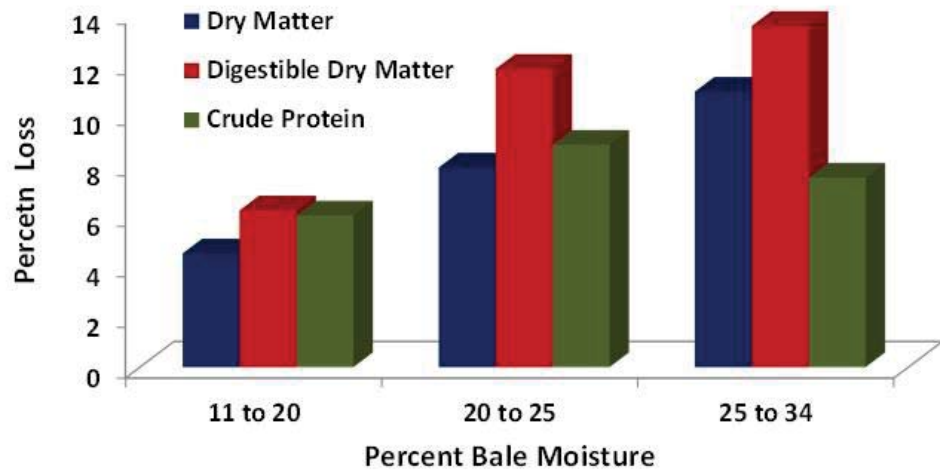


Figure 1. Dry matter and forage quality losses (% of initial crop yield) and different hay storage moisture contents. Source: Wilcke et al., 1999.

Upcoming Events:

June 21, 2013: Mississippi Forage & Grassland Council Membership Meeting. Mississippi Cattlemen's Building, Jackson, MS. For connection via Distance Education, please contact your County Extension. For more information, visit <http://mississippifgc.org>

July 13, 2013: Warm-season Grass Forage Tour. South Farm (Henry H. Leveck Animal Research Farm). Mississippi State University. For more information visit <http://mississippiforages.com> or contact Julie White (662) 323-5916.

Mississippi Forage and Grassland Council (MSFGC)



Membership Meeting Update

June 21, 2013



Mississippi Cattlemen Association Building

Jackson, Mississippi

Time: 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM

MSFGC would like to invite you the **Membership Meeting Update** to discuss the events that the organization has planned for this year and to discuss future changes to the by-laws and membership.

The exploratory committee has been very working hard to get your organization re-established and your input of the overall re-structure of the organization is very important. Remember that **MSFGC is a producer driven organization** and **your voice and participation** is what makes MSFGC unique.

Please let us know if you plant to attend in person by contacting Dr. Rocky Lemus at **Rlemus@pss.msstate.edu** or (662) 325-7718.

If you would like to connect via Distance Education in your county, please contact you County Extension Office. County Offices, please contact Steve Hankins at **steveh@ext.msstate.edu** to add your county.

For more information, please visit MSFGC website at
<http://mississippifgc.org>



Warm-season Grass Forage Tour

July 13, 2013 (Saturday)

Mississippi State University

**Location: Henry H. Leveck Animal Research Farm (South Farm),
Forage Unit
Starkville, MS**

Registration: 7:30 A.M.

Tour 8:00 A.M – 11:00 A.M



Topics will include:

- ◆ Sorghum Varieties.
- ◆ Nitrogen Fertility Demonstrations.
- ◆ Warm-season Legumes.
- ◆ Bermudagrass and bahiagrass trials.
- ◆ Bioenergy crops.

This is a free event, but early registration is encouraged.

For more information contact:

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