

Testing Forage

For the best analysis of hay, you will need a hay probe, electric drill, a quart size bag for each different sample you wish to submit, and 12-20 different bales from each cutting you are submitting. For example, if you are testing 3 different cuttings/fields, you will need at least 12 bales from each cutting/field and 3 plastic bags. Probe each bale at the end of the bale in the center between the strings. Put your samples in the plastic bags, label, and mail. Samples should be mailed to:

Equi-analytical
730 Warren Road
Ithaca, NY 14850

Equi-analytical offers a variety of packages to evaluate your horse's diet. These range anywhere from \$15 dollars and up and can evaluate hay, pasture, and grain. For more detailed instructions, visit Equi-analytical online at www.equi-analytical.com.

Interpreting your Results

| Category | Definition | Goal |
|---|--|---|
| Water Soluble Carbohydrates (WSC) | Contains sugars, fructans of all sizes, glucans, and organic acids; all are a source of calories | For the overweight horse you need less than 15% to keep the calories low |
| Ethanol Soluble Carbohydrates (ESC) | The most important category; contains glucose, sucrose, lactose, and fructo-oligosaccharides (FOS); all are rapidly fermented; not a desirable component | For IR, PPID and laminitic horses, goal is for ESC+starch to equal less than 10 % |
| Starch | A polysaccharide and good source of energy | ESC + starch should equal less than 10% |
| Non Structural Carbohydrates (NSC) | Not currently the term of choice as too many definitions are used; closest estimate of what it use to equal is WSC + starch | No matter what number is used you can significantly decrease it by soaking hay----30 minutes in hot water and 60 minutes for cold water |