

2018 Ohio Beef Forage Contest Rules

1. This contest is open to any hay producer from Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Pennsylvania or West Virginia. Entries must be submitted by the farm where the forage was grown.
2. Categories for the contest are a) alfalfa hay; b) grass hay and c) mixed hay (alfalfa/grass). For mixed hay, please list the approximate alfalfa content of the mix.
3. Hay sample, entry form, and entry fee payment (\$12/sample) must be received by Rock River Laboratory (Wooster, OH location) by **February 16, 2018**.
4. The entry fee includes the “NDF Digestibility” test package from Rock River Laboratory. Specific information on the tests included in this package can be found on Rock River’s web site (rockriverlab.com). All participants will receive a copy of the complete analysis report of their sample(s).
5. Producers may submit up to three samples; however, each sample must be taken from a different lot of hay and from a minimum of 5 bales within that lot. A lot is defined as the forage harvested within one day from one field and/or from a specific variety/hybrid. For information on appropriate hay sampling procedures please refer to the National Forage Association’s guide entitled [“Recommended Principles for Proper Hay Sampling”](#), available on their web site (foragetesting.org). A separate entry form and entry fee must be submitted for each sample.
6. Samples must be taken using a hay probe type [as recommended by the National Forage Testing Association](#). Core samples should be submitted for testing in a pint or quart sized zip-type bag
7. Samples must be taken from fields with a minimum maturity or re-growth of at least 25 days to ensure fair competition.
8. Dry hay samples with moisture content over 18% will not be accepted; however, hay treated with a preservative will be accepted as long as the checkbox on the entry form indicates a preservative was used and the moisture content of the sample is under 25%.
9. Prizes will be awarded to the top three hay samples in each category. Producers who place within the top 3 will only be eligible for the highest place they qualify for – producers may not claim multiple places within a category. Samples will be judged based on Relative Forage Quality (RFQ). In the case of a tie, the sample with the highest Total Digestible Nutrient (TDN) will receive the higher placement.