

The Importance of Hay Testing

By Susan Mitchell

The testing of hay is an important step that can be taken toward better understanding the nutrition that you are supplying to your dairy goats. Many a load of beautiful hay has turned out to be sub-par, causing nutritional deficiencies that can sometimes be hard for a herd to recover from. This is especially true when pregnant or lactating does are in the herd.

You will find much great advice out there on what type of grain and concentrates to feed and how. However, the concentrate portion of the ration only makes up a part of the total nutrition that an animal will take in on any given day. The largest portion of the diet, hay and forage, are sometimes left to whatever the hay guy or feed store has on hand and it is usually untested. While it may look fresh, green, and smell lovely – a test can sometimes tell a whole other story!

