

Hay Quality Sensory Evaluation Form – Alfalfa ($\leq 10\%$ grass)

T.C. Griggs, Utah State University; S.C. Fransen, Washington State University; and M.G. Bohle, Oregon State University

Entry no. _____ Class/intended use _____ Cutting _____ Bale size/type _____
(Dairy, TMR, feeder, horse, feed store, export, etc.) Probe moisture % _____

Evaluation purpose ___ Nutritional value ___ Economic value ___

| Characteristic | Points | Score | Notes |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|----------|-------|
| 1. Package functionality (max. 10) | | | |
| A. Bale tie effectiveness/spacing/tension | 5-0 | | |
| B. Bale shape/density/transportability | 5-0 | | |
| 2. Odor (max. 20) | | | |
| A. New-mown/sweet to neutral | 20-10 | | |
| B. Preservative-treated or fermented | 20-0 | | |
| C. Caramelized/heat-damaged | 14-0 | | |
| D. Musty to moldy, other objectionable | 14-0 | | |
| 3. Maturity stage (max. 15) | | | |
| A. Pre-bud; vegetative | 15 | | |
| B. Bud; early to late | 14-12 | | |
| C. Bloom; early to late | 11-5 | | |
| D. Seed; green to ripe/shattering | 4-0 | | |
| 4. Foreign material, dust, soil, rocks, stubble, weeds, & non-crop species (max. 15) | | | |
| A. Clean | 15-12 | | |
| B. 1–5% &/or dusty (from soil or mold) | 11-6 | | |
| C. >5% &/or injurious | 5-0 | | |
| <i>*Also see noxious/poisonous/injurious in No. 7</i> | | | |
| 5. Forage texture & condition (max. 30) | | | |
| A. Texture; soft/pliable to tough/brittle | 6-0 | | |
| B. Leaf concentration; leafy to leafless | 6-0 | | |
| C. Stem diameter; fine to coarse | 6-0 | | |
| D. Leaf attachment; retained to detached | 6-0 | | |
| E. Leaf & flake integrity; intact/cohesive to pulverized/loose | 6-0 | | |
| <i>*Moldy/weathered/spoiled (penalty)</i> | <i>-1 to -30</i> | - | |
| 6. Color & uniformity (max. 10) | | | |
| A. Natural green of crop | 10-8 | | |
| B. Light green to bleached | 7-5 | | |
| C. Yellow to brown to black/grey/white (moldy) | 4-0 | | |
| <i>*Non-uniform; streaked/blotchy/brownleaf (penalty)</i> | <i>-1 to -4</i> | - | |
| 7. Penalties (max. -100) | | | |
| A. <i>Noxious weeds/seeds, poisonous plants</i> | <i>-10 to -100</i> | - | |
| B. <i>Moisture % >18 (small), >16 (large) if untreated</i> | <i>-1 to -100</i> | - | |
| C. <i>Injurious/objectionable not noted above</i> | <i>-1 to -100</i> | - | |
| Total score | 100 | | |