

## Alfalfa Quality Guidelines

	DOMI lbs/ton as- fed	CP % DM	ADF % DM	NDF % DM	RFV	Ash % DM	30 h NDFdig % NDF	DM %
Supreme	>1250	>22	<28	<34	>185	<9%	>44%	90-92%
Premium	1201-1250	21-22	28-29	34-36	171-185	9-10%	43%	90-92%
Good	1151-1200	19-20	30-33	37-40	151-170	10-11%	42%	88-89%
Fair	1101-1150	18-19	34-35	41-44	130-150	12-13%	41%	86-87%
Utility	<1100	<18	>35	>44	<130	>13%	<41%	<86%

**DOMI** = Digestible Organic Matter Index. Calculated Index. Estimates the amount of digestible organic matter in hay or haylage samples. The calculation removes ash and indigestible NDF (indigestible fiber) which provide NO nutritional value to the animal. It is a more accurate predictor of quality than RFV (which uses only ADF and NDF in the equation). DOMI is reported in pounds of digestible organic matter in a ton of hay or haylage. It takes into account the moisture level, therefore wetter hays (lower DM) will have lower DOMI. **We are strongly encouraging the use of this index as a ranking tool for forage quality.**

**CP** = Crude Protein

**ADF** = Acid Detergent Fiber (measurement of fiber that estimates cellulose).

**NDF** = Neutral Detergent Fiber (measurement of fiber that estimates the amount of hemicellulose and cellulose). It is used to predict intake in cattle.

**RFV** = Relative Feed Value, Calculated Index using ADF and NDF. It was one of the first indexes that was used throughout the industry. It is still used today. However, it has many limitations, and we would not recommend using it as a ranking tool to evaluate forage quality.

**30 h NDFdig = 30 hour NDF digestibility**, estimates how much of the NDF is digestible or available to the ruminant.