

April 2014

Got Manure?

It's that time of year again. Tractors are out in the fields getting the ground ready for planting. Have you thought about manure application, manure nutrient content, and how it will impact the future crop that will be planted? Ag Health Labs has been receiving manure samples this spring. If you need to do manure nutrient analysis, we are now accepting manure samples!! If you have questions please call 509-836-2020, email ahlabs@aghealthlabs.com, or stop by the lab. We have bottles for collecting manure samples. You're welcome to pick them up at the lab or we can ship them to you.



Update

The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) administers a water quality program referred to as Dairy Nutrient Management (<http://agr.wa.gov/FoodAnimal/Livestock-Nutrient/>). Washington's Dairy Nutrient Management Act requires all licensed cow dairies to develop and implement nutrient management plans. This is not a new program. Many dairies hire an independent nutrient management planner or use the local conservation district staff to write and maintain their nutrient management plan. Part of the Dairy Nutrient Management Plan includes record keeping. There is a record keeping fact sheet on the WSDA website (<http://agr.wa.gov/FoodAnimal/Livestock-Nutrient/Docs/RecordkeepingFactSheet.pdf>). This fact sheet indicates that there is some manure and soil sampling necessary in order to be in compliance.

At Ag Health Labs we are committed to continuing to add services that will support the agriculture industry in the region. That has led to the addition of manure analysis, and we would also accept soil samples. We will continue to develop this area over time and will be adding educational information regarding the interpretation of manure, soil, and crop nutrient analyses. We also have many contacts in the area of nutrient management, and, if we don't have the answer to a question or concern, we have many resources available to get the answer or put you in contact with someone who could provide you with more information. We welcome any discussion, questions, or feedback. Please contact Lynn VanWieringen (lvancouver@aghealthlabs.com) or Fred Muller (fmuller@aghealthlabs.com) via email or call Ag Health Labs at 509-836-2020.

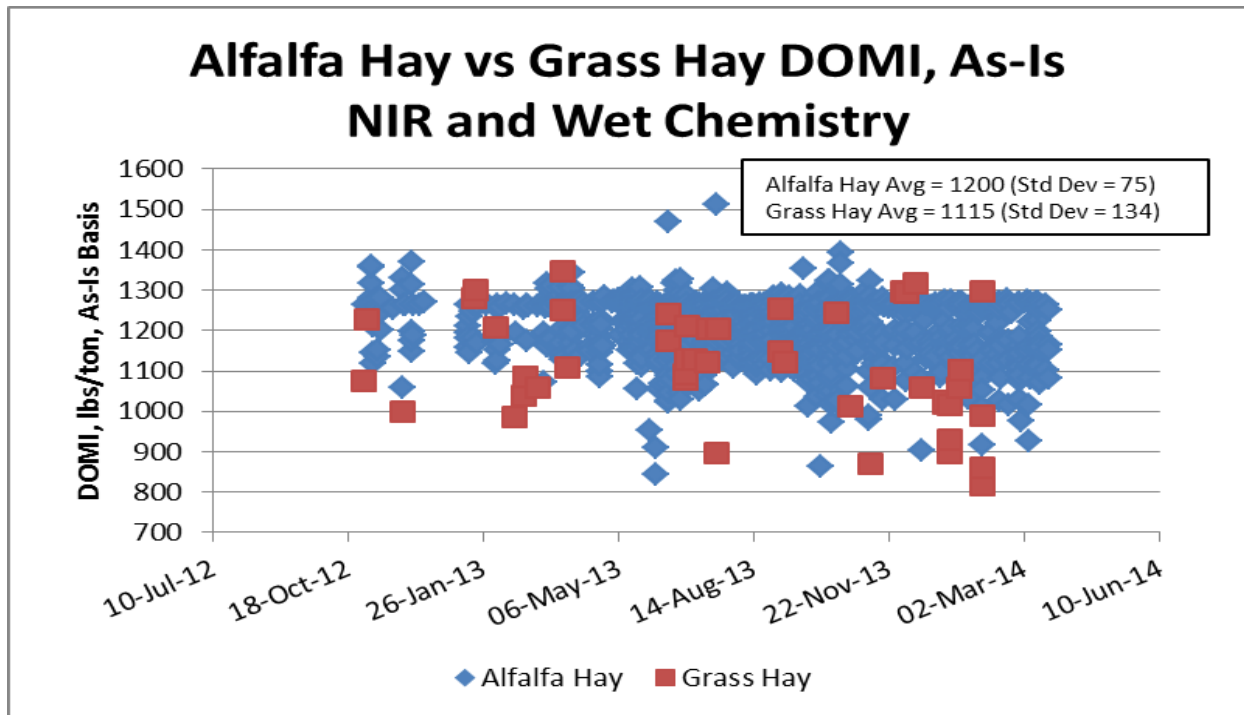
Changes to the NRCS Nutrient Management 590 Standard

This February changes were made to the National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Nutrient Management 590 Standard. The Nutrient Management 590 Standard is designed to manage the amount (rate), source, placement (method of application), and timing of plant nutrients and soil amendments (NRCS 590 Definition). The following link will take you to a USDA fact sheet that describes the changes made to the NRCS Washington State 590 Nutrient Management Practice Standard http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/PA_NRCSConsumption/download?cid=stelprdb1245928&ext=pdf

The other two areas being addressed by the STAC subcommittee at Washington NRCS during 2014 include the Washington Agronomy Technical Note 14 (which will address specific conditions where application of manure will be allowed if installed practices help mitigate for potential water quality impacts), and the Phosphorus Index. This link describes what the Agronomy Technical Note 14 will be addressing http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/PA_NRCSConsumption/download?cid=stelprdb1245926&ext=pdf

We will continue to update you as we learn of changes that may affect your operation. Please let us know if we can help get you in touch with people who can address your concerns.

Digestible Organic Matter Index (DOMI) Values for Alfalfa Hay and Grass Hay Samples Submitted to Ag Health Labs for the Past Year



Manure Samples

- If you need to do manure nutrient analysis, we are now accepting manure samples!!

Digestible Organic Matter Index (DOMI)

Ag Health Labs is currently reporting Digestible Organic Matter Index on all wet chemistry and NIR analysis packages for hay and haylage samples.

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