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Feed Season 2010

It's exciting to kick off the 2010 Feed Season in the Northwest. Triticale is chopped and packed, corn seed is in the ground on most farms, and Alfalfa is somewhere between stacked, standing, or well washed. 'Tis the season!

Here at Ag Health we are excited to ramp up our 2010 feed testing season. We've already been drying Triticale and Alfalfa haylage samples, and we've started to test the first hay of the season.

In case you haven't kept up with the improvements at Ag Health's feed lab, we made several upgrades this past winter to improve the scope of our testing capabilities, the efficiency and volume of analyses we can perform, the expertise in our personnel, and the usefulness and amount of info on our website. The biggest overall change at Ag Health is the addition of in-house mineral analyses. We are now able to offer a complete mineral analysis in addition to the high quality wet chemistries we have been providing for the past 3 years.

We look forward to directly contacting as many of you as we can, but if you have any questions in the mean time regarding feed analysis or other services we provide, please contact us by phone at (509) 836-2020, email us at ahlabs@aghealthlabs.com, or go to our website at www.aghealthlabs.com



Feed Lab Update

Mineral Analysis Up and Running!

NFTA Certified for 2010

Ag Health Feed Lab
certified by
the National Forage
Testing Association

New Feed Submission
forms:
Please fill out forms as com-
pletely as possible!
See page 2

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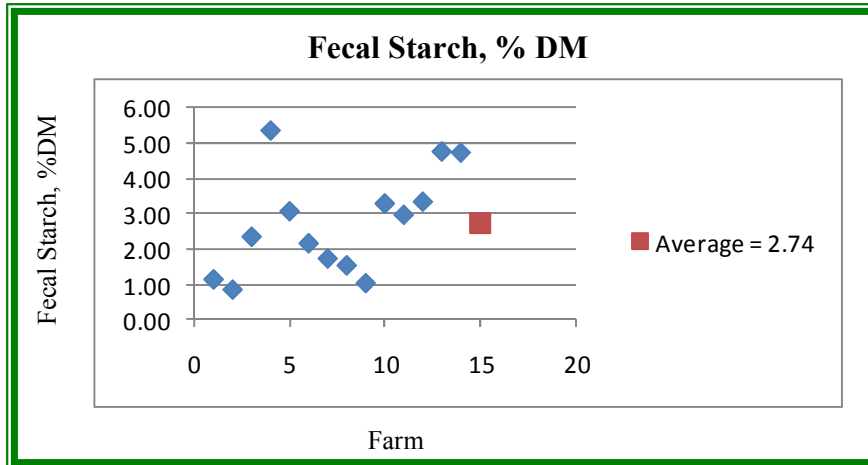
Fecal Starch Update

In the January Newsletter we discussed the importance of starch availability in the rumen for maximizing milk production per unit of starch fed. If starch is unavailable in the rumen it must either be digested in the intestines or it will pass out of the cow in the manure. Starch is less effectively absorbed in the intestines than the rumen and may lead to disorders such as Hemorrhagic bowel syndrome. Factors that may reduce the availability of starch in the rumen include; poor kernel processing of the corn in silage while harvesting, lack of processing or improperly processed grain, and corn hybrid variety differences.

Fecal starch is a measure of the starch percentage remaining in feces on a dry matter basis. High fecal starch values indicate that starch from the feed is passing through the digestive tract undigested, and low fecal starch values indicate that the

starch present in the ration is effectively digested and absorbed. Fecal starch values have been reported as high as 15% in dairy cattle, indicating poor starch digestion and absorption. Well utilized rations are expected to result in fecal starch values below 5%.

Following is a chart of the fecal starches we have analyzed for dairy clientele at Ag Health's Feed Lab:



The Ag Health Feed Lab is now providing fecal starch analysis. If you are interested in running a sample, please bring in a gallon sized Ziploc bag filled 1/2 to 3/4 full of feces. It is best to walk the pen and take many grab samples from throughout the entire pen to get a representative analysis of fecal starch levels in a pen of cows. If there will be over an hour delay from the time of sampling until it is brought to the lab it is best to refrigerate the sample. If it is going to be longer than 24 hours before the sample is brought to the lab it should be frozen.

New Feed Lab Submission Forms!

Ag Health Feed lab now has a separate feed submission form to be used for all feed analysis submissions. Please fill out the forms as completely as possible. This reduces errors in tests to be run, as well as allowing us to provide the most complete feed and data analysis back to you, the customer.

WSU Helping You

Dr. John Wenz, WSU Field Disease Investigation Unit, or his student researchers, will be contacting you regarding a short survey and the opportunity to take a handful of blood samples on newborn calves to evaluate the level of passive transfer within dairy herds in the state of Washington. This study is intended to find the prevalence of Failure of Passive Transfer (FPT) and it's association with colostrum management practices, such as on farm total protein testing. Please be supportive and cooperative of their efforts as it is a project intended to provide the dairy industry of Washington State with sound and applicable research. Thank you!