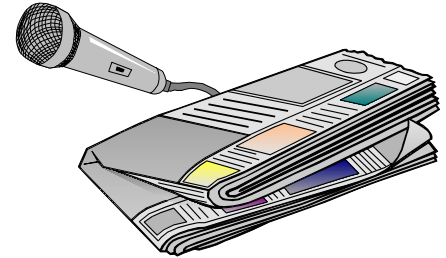




Agriculture Home Economics 4-H

GLENN COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION NEWS FLASH



July 7, 2003

Extension Notes - Barbara Reed

FORAGE TESTING INFORMATION AVAILABLE

According to University of California Farm Advisor Barbara Reed, forage quality is always of critical importance to dairy producers. They need to work closely with their hay brokers to get high quality feed at a fair price. For the past 5 years the University of California has been working closely with laboratory representatives, university scientists, dairy nutritionists and hay growers as a volunteer group known as the California Hay Testing Consortium to assure laboratory consistency in California.

Most producers and growers use hay testing data to negotiate the price paid for alfalfa and other forages, so the accuracy and reliability of the data generated by forage testing labs is very important. Many labs have chosen to participate in the California Recognized and National Forage Testing Associations. These labs see lab excellence and high quality analysis as essential to customer service.

The UC Cooperative Extension Alfalfa and Forages Work Group has put together a great website that covers most aspects of hay quality including sampling and testing.

For more information on forage testing information, you can go to the UC Cooperative Extension website at <http://alfalfa.ucdavis.edu/>. For national forage testing laboratory listing, you can go to

http://www.foragetesting.org/certified_labs.php.

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