

agweather connection

HAY DAYS

Does it really make a difference how hay is baled or when it is baled? Is the amount of hay you produce more important than the quality of hay you produce? The answer to these questions will depend upon what you do with your hay.

If you are selling the hay for a certain amount per ton or bale and the buyer doesn't know or care about hay quality, then hay quality won't matter. However, if you are producing hay to feed to your own livestock or to sell in a quality market, then quality hay should be of primary importance.

Fuel and labor costs have made hay baling an increasingly expensive chore. Once the hay is harvested, keeping maximum energy and protein stored for winter feed will help make the best use of the haying expense.

University of Tennessee extension specialists conducted a trial to compare different methods of storing large round bales of grass hay. The hay was cut and baled in June in Moore County, Tennessee. The bales were weighed at the time of harvest and storage. Then the bales were weighed again the following January at the time of winter feeding. The following chart lists the type of storage and the resulting percentage hay loss.

PREVENTING HAY LOSS

It is ideal to store hay inside, but often is not practical. The next best option is to store hay off the ground and under a rain shedding cover.

Storage	Covering	Hay lost
Ground	No cover	37 percent
On used tires	No cover	29 percent
Ground	Tarp cover	29 percent
Ground	Net wrapped	19 percent
On used tires	Tarp cover	8 percent
Barn	Barn	6 percent



Humidity movie

- Start at <http://aqweather.mesonet.org>
- Click on "Weather"
- Select "HUMIDITY"
- Choose "3-hour Humidity Movie"
- This movie displays the changes in humidity over the last three hours in 5-minute increments.
- It can be paused, fast-forwarded, rewind, etc., by using the animation buttons in the bottom right corner of the page.



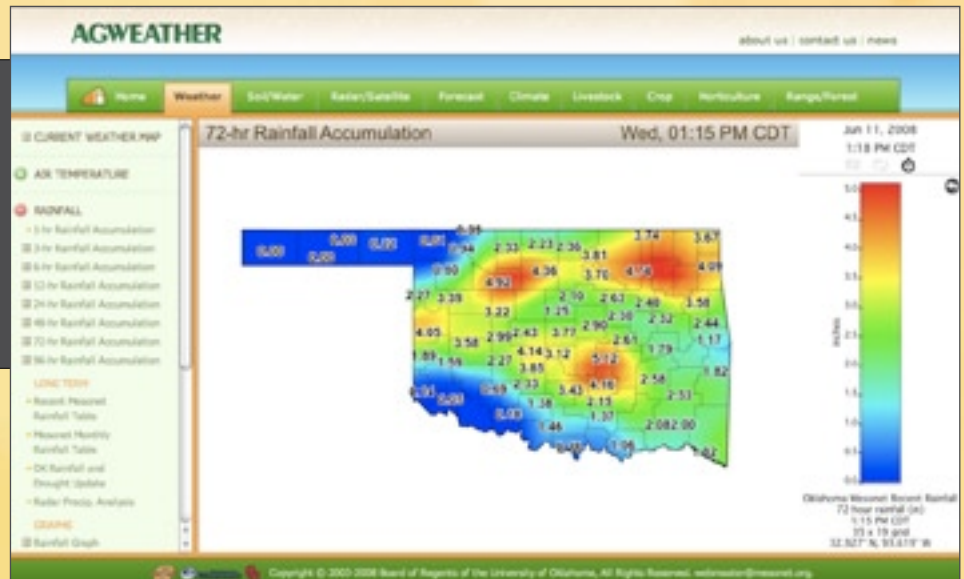
Forecasted relative humidity

- Go to <http://aqweather.mesonet.org>
- In the "Current Weather at:" section toward the middle and right of the page, choose the Mesonet tower that's closest to you by clicking the up/down arrows located to the right of the town that is displayed.
- Then select the "Forecast" tab from the top green menu bar.
- Next, click "NAT. WEATHER SERVICE"
- Finally, select "Hour-by-hour Forecast." This may take a few moments to load.



Rainfall

- Start at <http://aqweather.mesonet.org>
- Click on "Weather"
- Then click "RAINFALL"
- Finally, choose one of the "Rainfall Accumulation" choices. These choices range from 1 hour to 4 days hours.





Soil moisture

- Start at <http://agweather.mesonet.org>
- Click on "Soil/Water"
- Then click "SOIL MOISTURE"
- Now choose "2-inch Soil Moisture"

USDA hay report

- Start at <http://agweather.mesonet.org>
- Click on "Crop"
- Then click "GRASS HAY" or "ALFALFA"
- Now select "USDA Oklahoma Hay Report"

Hay Directory In State by County



Oklahoma Department of
Agriculture,
2800 N. Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73105-4298
Phone: 1-800-580-6543
www.oda.state.ok.us

Hay for sale

- Start at <http://agweather.mesonet.org>
- Click on "Crop"
- Then click "GRASS HAY" or "ALFALFA"
- Select "OK Ag Dept Hay List (PDF)"

BEWARE

OF PRUSSIC ACID POISONING AND NITRATE TOXICITY

PRUSSIC ACID POISONING I

Prussic acid can build up in sorghum and Sudangrass throughout the summer. • Prussic acid is one of the most rapidly acting toxins that affects mammals. • Once plants containing prussic acid have been consumed, the toxin rapidly enters the blood stream and is transported throughout the body of the animal. • Prussic acid inhibits oxygen utilization by the cells in the animal's body and ultimately causes suffocation.

PRUSSIC ACID POISONING II

Signs of prussic acid poisoning can occur as quickly as 15 to 20 minutes after the animal consumes the toxic forage. • Symptoms may include excitement, rapid pulse, muscle tremors, labored breathing, staggering and collapse. • The animal may experience drooling, runny eyes, bright pink mucous membranes and bright, cherry-red blood. • When prussic acid poisoning is suspected, contact your veterinarian, send the forage to a lab to be analyzed and change forages until the results from the analysis are returned.

NITRATE TOXICITY I

Pearl millet, Sudangrass and grain sorghum can buildup nitrates. These nitrates can be deadly when ingested by beef cattle. • Steps can be taken to minimize nitrate poisoning in beef cattle. • Forage type selection and minimal fertilization are key to reducing the risk of nitrate poisoning.

NITRATE TOXICITY II

Pearl millet has the greatest ability to accumulate nitrates, whereas Sudan crosses tend to accumulate less nitrates. • Over-fertilization of nitrogen can also cause nitrates to build up. • It is very important to check the nitrate level in hay before cutting. • Once the forage is cut, the nitrate will stay put. • Many times, you can wait for rain or let the forage mature more to help reduce the amounts of nitrates in the plants.

FORAGE TESTING

- Contact your local OSU Extension office for information and answers about forage testing.

