

FORAGE CROPS

Superintendent: Kim Woods, Area Extension Agent - Person & Granville Counties (336) 599-1195

Assistant Coordinator: Bailee Sheffield, Livestock Extension Agent - Caswell County

Judges & Advisors: Miguel S. Castillo, Forage Specialist, Crop and Soil Sciences Dept., NCSU
Charles Young, NC Cooperative Extension Service, Retired

Registration Deadline: Tuesday, September 15, 2026 at 11:59 PM

**Mailed entry forms must be postmarked by September 1st, 2026*

Entry Submission:

 Please refer to the Entry Process below for more details on submitting your entries.

Judging:

 Wednesday, October 13th, 2026 at 3 PM

FORAGE CROPS RULES & REGULATIONS

-  The General Rules and Regulations of the Fair will govern this department, except in cases of conflict, where the following Rules and Regulations will prevail. Please read all rules & regulations carefully before submitting your entries.
-  Submit questions to: NCSFCompetitions@ncagr.gov.
-  Pre-registration is required, either [online](#) or by mail. Make your entries early.
-  Open to hay-producing residents of North Carolina only.
-  Exhibitors are allowed **one** entry per class.
-  Display space is limited, only the first six places in each category will be displayed.
-  The NC State Fair retains all entries for teaching purposes at NCSU.
-  Not all placings will be awarded if entries are not deemed to be of sufficient quality and quantity.
-  Entries will be judged on chemical analysis and visual criteria that are indicative of relative feed value. The final score is weighted as follows: 40% Visual, 40% TDN and 20% Crude protein, with deductions for the nitrates.
-  Hay not at or below the safe storage moisture level of less than 20% moisture, will be disqualified
-  Participation in this competition has multiple steps. Please thoroughly read the Entry Process:

ENTRY PROCESS

The entry process has multiple steps.

1. **ENTER [ONLINE](#)** with the NC State Fair by September 15th at 11:59 PM
2. **SUBMIT YOUR ANALYSIS SAMPLE**

-  A small core sample for chemical analysis must be sent to the NCDA Forage Lab. This Analysis Sample along with a completed analysis form and \$10 payable to the NCDA&CS must arrive to the lab by September 15th. Write NC State Fair Sample on top of paper form. Analysis form is available at <https://www.ncagr.gov/food-drug/fdpd-forage-analysis-form/download?attachmentor> you may complete it online digitally at <https://apps.ncagr.gov/AgRSysPortalV2/forageanalysisreport>

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 The Analysis Sample can be sent to the lab one of 2 ways

1. Hand delivered to the lab - you can work with your Extension Agent.
2. Mail the Analysis Sample directly to the Forage Testing Lab:
 - a. USPS - Forage Testing, NCDA&CS, 1070 Mail Service Center Raleigh, NC 27607-1070
 - b. UPS or FedEx - Forage Testing, NCDA&CS, 4400 Reedy Creek Rd. Raleigh, NC 27607

3. SUBMIT YOUR VISUAL SAMPLE

 **A 6" THICK SECTION FROM THE SAME BALE** is needed for visual analysis. The lab report from your Analysis Sample and 6" Visual Sample must arrive at the fairgrounds by Monday, October 5th. Hay sample can come from a square or round bale, and should be tied well with baler twine.

 Visual sample can be sent to the Fair 4 ways:

1. You can hand deliver your sample to the fairgrounds Admin office by Friday, October 9, between 8 AM and 5 PM. You will **NOT** be able to enter the fairgrounds after Friday, October 9 while the fair is being set up.
2. Work with your Extension Agent to get your visual sample to fairgrounds by Friday, October 9th.
3. Mail the visual sample. It must be **received** by Monday, October 5th.
 - a. USPS - NC State Fair - Entry Office 1010 Mail Service Center Raleigh NC 27699-1010
 - b. FedEx or UPS - NC State Fair - Entry Office 4285 Trinity Road Raleigh NC 27607
4. Enter through Gate 4 on Youth Center Road and drop off at the Jim Graham Building on the fairgrounds during any of the following times:
 -  Monday, October 12th between 9 AM and 3 PM
 -  Tuesday, October 13th between 9 AM and 3 PM
 -  Wednesday, October 14th before 10 AM

DIVISION 101: FORAGE CROPS

PREMIUMS

1st - \$55 2nd - \$45 3rd - \$35 4th - \$30 5th - \$25 6th - \$20

Jim Green Award - Best of Show - \$50

CLASS

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|--|--|
| 01 - Alfalfa | 07 - Other Warm Season Grasses (<i>Millet, Sudan, Crabgrass, Sorghum-sudan, johnsongrass, or mixtures with less than 50% Bermudagrass</i>) |
| 02 - Bermudagrass | 08 - Small Grains |
| 03 - Fescue | 09 - Other Cool Season Grasses (<i>Ryegrass, Bluegrass, Matua, Prairiegrass</i>) |
| 04 - Orchardgrass | 10 - Mixed Cool Season Grasses |
| 05 - Other Legumes (<i>Pure Clover, Soybeans, Kudzu, Lespedeza</i>) | |
| 06 - Grass - Legume Mixture (<i>Any grass with any legume in the bale</i>) | |