Northern Territory Government

Information Sheet IS12

Nutritional Attributes of Selected Feeds in the NT

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Harvesting of Fodder:

- Most of the fodder produced in the NT is grown over the wet season and harvested in the early dry season.
- Dryland grass hay is relatively low in crude protein but provides a range of digestible energies depending on growing conditions and harvest time.
- Legumes such as Cavalcade, Verano stylo and Blue Pea can produce high protein, good quality hay over the wet season but usually produce less bulk than grass hay crops.

Irrigation:

- Irrigation can be used to produce high quality fodder in the dry season.
- Rhodes grass, rice hay, forage sorghum and lucerne can be grown under irrigation in the Top End.
- Cavalcade, Bundey, stylos and several tropical grasses have high temperature requirements and do not produce viable yields under irrigation in the dry season.

Nutritional Values of Forages:

The table on the back of this sheet shows nutritional values of selected forages under different growing conditions. Species marked with ** or * are considered highly or partially suited to irrigated production respectively.

References:

http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au

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Nutritional Values of Forages

Product	Crude Protein %	Digestibility % (digestible dry matter)	Energy MJ/kg of DM	Comment
Legume Forages				
Blue Pea**	14.5 - 23	54 - 66	7.5 - 10	Dry season irrigated.
Cavalcade/Bundey	7 - 16	39 - 68	7 - 9	Grown in wet season, harvested early dry. Higher values are for younger plant material sampled prior to maturity.
Lucerne**	15.5 - 20.5	65 - 68	8.0 - 10	Irrigated in the dry season.
Verano Stylo	7 - 15	60 - 78	9.5 - 11	Grown in wet season, harvested early dry. Higher values are for younger plant material sampled prior to maturity.
Wynn Cassia	3 - 13	43 - 55	6 - 8	Samples taken from rain fed pasture throughout the year. Lower values relate to dry season pasture.
Good legume hay	12 - 15	55 - 65	8.5 - 10	Hay of this quality would be A2 to B2 grade under the AFIA# fodder classification system
Grass Forages				
Forage Sorghum**	5 - 13	55 - 62.5	8 - 9	Irrigated in the dry season
Jarra Grass*	2 - 12	48 - 54	6 - 10.5	Grown in wet season, harvested early dry. Higher values are for irrigated samples.
Pearl Millet	4 - 12.5	49 - 57	N/A	Grown in wet season and harvested early dry
Pangola*	3.5 - 15	52 - 53	7.3	Lower values are wet season grown and harvested early dry. Higher values are for irrigated samples.
Rhodes Grass**	8 - 18	55.5 - 62.5	7.5 - 10.5	Irrigated in the dry season
Rice hay**	5.5 - 11.6	50 - 63	6.8 - 9	Lower values from wet season produced rice stubble without grain. Higher values taken from FeedTest® laboratory## data.
Signal Grass*	3.5 - 13.5	47.5 - 66	6 - 8	Lower values are wet season grown and harvested early dry. Higher values are for irrigated samples.
Sabi	2 - 13	48 - 58	6.5 - 8	Lower values are wet season grown and harvested early dry. Higher values are for irrigated samples.
Tully	2 - 12.5	45 - 60	5.5 - 9	Lower values are wet season grown and harvested early dry. Higher values are for irrigated samples.
Good Grass Hay	7.5 - 10	55 - 60	7 - 9	Hay of this quality would be A3 to C2 grade under the AFIA# fodder classification system

Note: Values obtained from various trials and observations at Douglas Daly Research Farm and Katherine in the NT. Figures don't necessarily represent the complete range of values possible. #AFIA is the Australian Fodder Industry Association's grading category for different quality fodders. ##Feedtest® is the Victoria Department of Natural Resources and Environment's Feed Testing Laboratory.