



## Info on Relative Forage Quality

*Dennis W. Hancock,  
Extension Forage Agronomist,  
Crop and Soil Sciences Department*

Relative Forage Quality (RFQ) is a new index that is currently being used in the UGA Feed and Water Testing Laboratory to evaluate hay samples. This single number index evaluates hay and silage based on the predicted forage digestibility and intake. Because of this measurement, RFQ is a more accurate determinant of hay quality than old equations based on NDF and ADF concentrations. The University of Georgia has worked in cooperation with the University of Wisconsin to include warm season forages like bermudagrass, bahiagrass and perennial peanut in the RFQ equations. RFQ has been used in Georgia to judge many hay contests. Georgia Farm Bureau, Piedmont Hay Contest, and the Southeastern Hay Contest all utilize RFQ as the major judging criteria. Links are provided below for more information on RFQ.

- [Relative Forage Quality: A new method for evaluating and marketing quality hay](#) (PDF)
  - John Andrae, Paul Vendrell and Ann Blount
- [Relative Forage Quality](#)
  - Dan Undersander and John Moore
- [Relative Forage Quality. Indexing Grasses and Legumes](#)
  - Dan Undersander and John Moore. (Equations for calculating RFQ)
- [Understanding Relative Feed Value and Relative Forage Quality](#) (PDF)
  - Peter Jeranyama and Alvaro Garcia

# Learning *for* Life

The University of Georgia and Ft. Valley State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and counties of the state cooperating. Cooperative Extension, the University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, offers educational programs, assistance and materials to all people without regard to race, color, national origin, age, gender or disability.

---

**An Equal Opportunity Employer/Affirmative Action Organization Committed to a Diverse Work Force**

**CSS-F036**

**June 2009**

---

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, The University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating.

J. Scott Angle, Dean and Director.