

## Certified Forage Testing Laboratories

Laboratory analyses are important for the evaluation of nutritive value in forages. Hay growers and livestock owners are encouraged to use forage testing as a management tool to improve forage production practices and feed efficiency. How do you know which laboratories provide accurate and reliable results?

The National Forage Testing Association (NFTA) was founded in 1984 not only to address this question but to also improve the accuracy of forage testing among laboratories. The mission of the NFTA is to improve the accuracy and reproducibility of laboratory analyses that are important for the evaluation of nutritive value in forages. Accuracy can only be determined by comparing results to a reference value. The NFTA uses a certification testing program to provide an unbiased assessment of the accuracy and reproducibility among participating laboratories. Laboratory proficiency is measured on check sample results of dry matter, crude protein, acid detergent fiber, and neutral detergent fiber.

NFTA is a joint effort of the American Forage and Grassland Council (AFAC), the National Hay Association (NHA), and forage testing laboratories. It is governed by a 12-member board of directors. Six directors represent laboratories, three represent AFGC, and three represent NHA.

Since the formation of NFTA formation, reproducibility of lab results among laboratories has dramatically improved. Various lab methods have been reviewed and improved. Over 150 laboratories annually participate in the certification process. Laboratories are evaluated six times a year. Performance grades are provided to laboratories to allow them to better evaluate their testing procedures and methods. The NFTA certified laboratories have proven the ability to produce accurate test results on recognized reference methods.

The following laboratories in Maryland, Pennsylvania, and New York have completed the NFTA certification test and are certified for the year 2018:

### **Cumberland Valley Analytical Services**

301 790-1980  
Sharon Weaver  
4999 Zane A Miller Drive  
Waynesboro PA 17268

### **Waypoint Analytical - PA**

717 656-0326  
Greg Zimmerman  
280 Newport Rd  
PO Box 483  
Leola PA 17540

### **Dairy One Forage Lab**

607 257-1272  
Mike Reuter  
730 Warren Road  
Ithaca NY 14850

### **National Forage Testing Association**

PO Box 1470  
Stuart, FL 34995  
Tele: 402 416-0052  
Website: [WWW.FORAGETESTING.ORG](http://WWW.FORAGETESTING.ORG)

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