



Hay testing

Above-normal rainfall usually means an abundance of hay on Kentucky farms, but that doesn't always mean above-normal quality. KDA's **forage testing program** can help farmers feed livestock most efficiently, or market their hay for the best and fairest prices.

Several counties saw record rainfall totals during spring and summer 2003, which in many cases either delayed farmers in harvesting their hay crops, or damaged their hay before it was baled.

In order to properly feed or market forages, producers must know the nutritional value of their forages.

Farmers are encouraged to call toll-free (800) 248-4628 to have a KDA employee come to the farm. The employee will insert a probe into several bales of hay from the same cutting in order to pull a core sample.

That sample is then taken back to the nationally recognized KDA laboratory in Frankfort for analysis. The results are mailed to the producer and the county Agriculture Extension agent.

If the producer wants to sell hay, KDA will obtain a physical description to post on the KDA Web site, enhanced by a digital image of the hay for sale..

Cost of the forage testing and marketing service is only \$10 per sampling visit. KDA offers tests for hay and haylages but not corn silage.

Environmental services

KDA offers a variety of environmental services to protect Kentuckians and their uniquely beautiful surroundings.

The Department's **mosquito spraying** service has taken on added importance since the West Nile virus first was confirmed in Kentucky in August 2001. Mosquitoes carrying the virus infected 75 humans and 513 equine in Kentucky during 2002.

KDA sprays for mosquitoes at the request of mayors, county judge-executives and local health officials. A spraying schedule is available on the KDA Web site.

