

Rules & Entry Form for the 2026 Georgia Farm Bureau Quality Bermudagrass Hay Contest

The purpose of the contest is to encourage and promote quality hay production. The contest is open to Georgia Farm Bureau members who produce dry Bermudagrass hay (all types/varieties) on their farm. The entry fee is \$25 per sample and is required to cover the cost of lab analysis.

All entries will be tested at the University of Georgia using the Relative Forage Quality (RFQ) system to determine total digestibility. It is imperative that each sample be as dry as possible before sealing in the zip lock bag. High moisture will accelerate the build-up of mold on the sample and will cause it to be disqualified. Entries must be submitted to the Georgia Farm Bureau Federation, Public Policy Department by no later than October 30, 2026. Producers entering the GFB Quality Hay Contest can have a free listing in the GFB Hay Directory.

Because a previous first place winner has satisfied the intent and purpose of the contest, they are not eligible to win any prize category for a period of 5 years. However, a previous winner may enter their sample for the purpose of having it officially graded. Any producer submitting more than one sample can only place in the top 5 with one sample but will receive analysis for all submitted samples. Likewise, entries are linked to Georgia Farm Bureau membership number.

Georgia Farm Bureau Hay Contest Rules:

- 1) Participants must be a Georgia Farm Bureau Member and have their own membership number.
- 2) Only hay produced in Georgia is eligible to enter.
- 3) Entry forms must be completed and signed and represents that all rules were followed.
- 4) Hay samples must be taken from fields with a minimum maturity or re-growth of at least 25 days to ensure fair competition.
- 5) Dry hay must have been dried in the field. The hay must not have been artificially dried (e.g., in a barn, forced air, fans, etc.)
- 6) Fill a one-gallon zip lock bag with naturally field dried core samples taken from at least 5 different bales (rolls or squares) within the same farm, same field and cut under uniform conditions.
- 7) Forage samples for lab analysis must be a core sample taken with a hay probe. Contact your county extension agent for assistance if needed.
- 8) Only dry Bermudagrass samples qualify to enter the contest.
- 9) Any samples with nitrates above 4500 ppm will be disqualified.
- 10) Any sample with moisture above 18% will be disqualified.
- 11) Disagreements will be decided by the GFB Hay Advisory Committee.

*Send entry form, sample and a check for **\$25/sample** payable to:*

Georgia Farm Bureau
Public Policy Department
1620 Bass Road
Macon, Georgia 31210





QUALITY HAY CONTEST ENTRY FORM

* Open to Georgia Farm Bureau Members only.

DATE _____ COUNTY _____

NAME _____ PHONE _____

FARM NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ Zip _____

EMAIL _____

TYPE/VARIETY OF BERMUDAGRASS HAY SUBMITTED:

Signed _____ Membership# _____ Date _____
(Member)

Member certified by _____ Date _____

_____ County Farm Bureau Office

Entry deadline is October 30, 2026

*Place sample of each entry in a one-gallon zip-lock bag. You can take your entry form and sample to your local county Farm Bureau office or mail with your check **for \$25 for each entry** payable to:*

Georgia Farm Bureau

Public Policy Department

1620 Bass Road

Macon, Ga. 31210