

reel Cheshire County -- reel Coos County -- reels Grafton County -- reels Hillsboro County -- reels Merrimack County -- reels

Old timers knew just the right feel of hay before it was ready to put into the barn. The goal of haymaking is to capture the nutrients in grass in a storable form to make them available as a forage feed in the winter months. With the variables of New England weather, many farmers have switched to haycrop silage as a way to harvest legumes and grasses. In that process the hay is cut and wilted, then chopped and preserved by fermentation in the silo or wrapped into large round bales. It offers a practical way to raise young calves and feed roughage in small-scale livestock operations. Timing One of the most critical factors in making quality dry hay is timing. Producers need to time haymaking to coincide with the right stage of plant growth and weather conditions. As plants mature, their lignin content a component of fiber increases and traps the nutrients within indigestible cell walls. Although cutting hay early will result in lower yields, the increase in nutritive value will compensate for reduced yields. The second, third and fourth cuttings that grow back are leafy and high in quality and often harvested when the weather is hotter, making the hay easier to cure. Sometimes growers need to make a little sacrifice by getting an early first crop from the field during periods of rainy, early summer weather in order to get the next crop growing. One important part of timeliness is having the equipment maintained and ready to go when the grass is ready. The winter months are a good time to check the equipment over and replace any worn or broken parts. A delay in harvest caused by an equipment breakdown can never be made up. It is good to have an early start date for haying just to get things ready. Shoot for a goal of May 15, in southern areas and May 25, farther north, even though conditions may not be right at that time every year. Mowing The first step in haymaking is mowing the hay. The maturity of the grass is the determining factor for starting the first field of the season. The grass should be in the early vegetative stage, and not headed out, with enough growth to make mowing worthwhile. Time your mowing around the most reliable weather forecast you can find. It basically takes about three days of good weather to cure hay. This can be a challenge in late May or early June. A good strategy is to mow just before or right after a rain, because of the likelihood of good weather for the next few days. Some people like to mow early in the morning to gain almost a day of drying time. Others prefer to mow at the end of the day when the grass is drier, in an attempt to increase the energy level of the forage by capturing some of the sugars that migrate up the plant stem during the day. Mowing Equipment Sickle mower One of the earliest methods of mechanically mowing hay was the sickle mower. It is still used today, typically in small haying operations or for clipping pastures. The sickle mower has a few disadvantages: Sickle haybine As the next development in haymaking, the sickle haybine greatly improved the mowing process. It uses the sickle bar technology, but has a front reel that lifts up bent-over stalks and allows it to be pulled at a faster speed. In addition, the sickle haybine has a built-in crimper that cracks open the grass stems to condition the hay for quicker drying. It also deposits the hay out the back into a gathered swath. The sickle bar haybine is still used on many medium-sized farms. Used haybines are available at reasonable prices. Rotary disk mower The rotary disk mower has become the industry standard in recent years. It consists of several rotary disks equipped with small knives at the bottom that spin at a very high speed. These mow through thick hay well and can be pulled at higher speeds than conventional style mowers. The small blades are inexpensive and can be replaced when dull. If something is hit in the field, it usually only affects one unit, minimizing repairs. The disk mower can also be outfitted with a crimper, which deposits the hay in a gathered swath. Tedding Once the hay starts to dry, it needs to be worked to promote curing. Tedding, the next step in haymaking, fluffs up the cut hay and allows the air and sun to contact the under-surfaces to promote drying. Hay tedders are generally wide units with several orbital wheels that lift the hay as they turn. Some styles have horizontal bars with teeth on a spinning reel. Some people ted immediately after mowing to spread out the swath. Hay mowed early in the morning could be teded that afternoon, as long as the mowed swath is dry on the top surface. It may require a second tedding the next day to speed up the drying process. Too much tedding can shatter leaves of alfalfa or clover, lowering

the quality of the hay. Proper tedding can be the key to timely haymaking. Raking Once the hay has been tedded and is nearly dry, it is ready to rake. Raking turns the hay one more time to dry the bottom and forms it into a windrow ready to be baled. As a rule of thumb, wait to rake hay until after the dew has dried and the sun nears its peak, or around 10:00. If possible, let the raked hay sit for an hour or two before baling to allow more drying time. Haymakers have several types of rakes available. The old style side-delivery rake, which can be PTO or ground-driven, is pulled at an angle to the tractor and has several rows of teeth on multiple reels that roll the hay into a windrow. A pin-wheel rake consists of four or five large wheels with teeth mounted on them. The wheels turn by friction as the rake is pulled over the field. Newer types of rakes have a series of rotary wheels that pull the hay together into a windrow. Some models of tedders are designed so they can be converted to a raking mode. Most haymakers rake the outside swath in first, going counter-clockwise around the perimeter of the field. Then they reverse directions and roll the first windrow to the outside and continue in clockwise circles around the field. Some prefer to re-rake the first and second windrows inwards after the rest of the hay is baled, to allow additional drying and to make an easier passage with the baler. Baling Science and art converge in haymaking with the critical decision of when to start baling. Baling hay too early will trap moisture in the bale and result in spoilage. Baling too dry will cause leaves to shatter and break, lowering hay quality. Hay ready to bale will have no bunches of green grass. It will have a brittle, crisp feel. To test its readiness, grab a clump of hay and hold one end of the clump in each hand. Pull vigorously with both hands. If the stalks break on the first pull, the hay is ready to bale. Some haymakers like to use an electronic moisture tester to confirm their own observations. You can find many models in farm catalogs. It takes a clear, sunny day to make hay. Furthermore, the preservatives may corrode the equipment. Improperly cured hay with above 22 percent moisture can also heat in the barn and cause a fire by spontaneous combustion. Generally hay is baled at a moisture content between 15 percent to 18 percent. Hay stored at more than 22 percent moisture in a barn or stack is at risk of spontaneous combustion. Hay can be made into round or square bales. Some people store large, round bales outside, but with a 6-foot diameter bale, approximately 30 percent of the hay is wrapped in the outer six-inch layer. A few inches of spoilage results in a significant loss of dry matter. Big, round bales can be stored in a large, high-clearance shed; grouped in stacked rows and covered with plastic, or individually wrapped as they are baled. While round bales do offer the advantage of mechanical handling, they may be difficult to market to small livestock producers. Here are some ways to mechanize the handling of small, square bales: Square bales are generally stored in a barn. They can be elevated to the top of a barn, conveyed along the peak of the barn and randomly dropped in piles or stacked by hand. Stacking may increase the storage capacity of a space. Stack successive layers in opposite directions to add stability to the pile. Field Losses and Quality Changes Nutrients lost while the hay dries in the field lower forage quality. These losses occur for several reasons: Drying hay as rapidly as possible limits respiration losses. Getting hay wet is the biggest frustration of haymaking. It lessens the quality and requires repetition of the hay-drying steps to prepare the hay again for baling. Hay should be handled as little as possible to maintain nutrient quality. Good hay is hard to make and takes careful management. Once it is in the barn, it should be sampled and tested to evaluate the quality and to best determine the concentrates needed to go with it to balance a ration. Written by John C.

2: Merrimack County, New Hampshire: Census Records and Indexes

Contributor Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center Language english-handwritten Volume Reel - New Hampshire Federal Population Census Schedules - Merrimack County (part).

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3: www.enganchecubano.com

Microfilm of original records in the Merrimack County Registry of Deeds, Concord, New Hampshire. View this catalog record in WorldCat for other possible copy locations Subjects.

4: Thad Reep New Hampshire

The details on South: This land located in Salisbury, NH is currently for sale for \$69, South is a - square foot land with - beds and - baths that has been on Estatefy for days.

5: Best Bagpipers in Merrimack County, NH

View the property at Rd S, Salisbury, NH Buying a home is a major investment and if you are going to buy a home, you should be sure you are buying the home that is right for you.

6: Youngs Hill, Loudon, NH - MLS# | Estatefy

A sheriff is an elected law enforcement official for a county. Sheriffs usually have policing jurisdiction over unincorporated areas of the county, though in some states, sheriffs have jurisdiction throughout the state.

7: New Hampshire - The USGenWeb Census Project

Whitehall Rd is a house in Hooksett, NH This 2, square foot house sits on a acre lot and features 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. This house has been listed on Redfin since September 07, and is currently priced at \$,

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9: Haymaking | UNH Extension

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