

# HAY SAMPLING, IT WAS NEVER ABOUT THE DATA

Tomlinson, A. P.  
apt@ufl.edu

University of Florida, IFAS Extension Gainesville, FL 32611

## Introduction

The goal of this educational project was to start an educational conversation about hay quality that would be listened to by producers. The number of samples sent to the UF/IFAS Extension Forage Testing Laboratory for quality analysis was approximately 5 per year, yet Columbia County hay sales are \$6 million plus per year.



## Methodology

Through field visits and phone calls, contact was made with local hay producers about collecting hay samples and sharing the results.



## Objectives

- Collect hay samples for analysis.
- Share results with hay & livestock producers.
- Start a conversation.



## Results

As a result of this project:

- Approximately 60 samples have been sent in over the last 3 years
- Those involved, involved others.
- Other projects:
  - Soil moisture probes
  - Data shared with researchers for a water modeling project concerning nutrient leaching
  - Herbicide demonstration on a farm trial
- 1 farm hired an outside sales rep
- 1 farm stopped cutting/using lower quality hay to feed his own cows
- Shared findings at local events and to other interested individuals



Forage Extension Laboratory		
3401 Experiment Station, Ona FL 33865		
Phone (863) 7531314 ext.205		
Mailing Address		
Name: Paulette - Columbia County	Phone: 386 7581030	
Address: 971 W Duval St, Suite 170		
City/County: Lake City	State: FL	Zip: 32025
Email: apt@ufl.edu		
Forage Test Results		
Lab ID	Crude Protein (%)	TDN (%)
KJ Horses	16.6	54

