

EXTENSION 2024 Austin County Hay Show

Annual Austin County Hay Show will be held in conjunction with the Fall Forage Seminar, which will be held at the Austin County Fairgrounds in Bellville, Texas on Friday, October 4th. Judging of the samples will take place prior to the seminar. This year's event will allow any producer from the Austin County area to enter forage samples in the show. Hay shows focuses attention on all the important factors in producing and utilizing high quality hay. Producers submit hay samples for the show which are classified according to species and judged based on the idea for that type of hay. Both physical and chemical (protein) characteristics of hay are evaluated. Awards will be presented to the top entries in each of the eight classes and to Grand and Reserve Champions.

Hay Show Rules

1. Hay entries have been produced by the exhibitor.
2. Select entries that have been baled with conventional hay machinery. **Samples resulting from special handling, such as hand harvesting and shade drying are ineligible.**
3. Entries should be in **a string-tied** block or bale with at least four inches of thickness. A **three-pound minimum** sample is required. **SAMPLES MUST BE IN BOX PROVIDED!** *Please do not overfill the boxes to where the box will not close. If too little of a sample is turned in, may result in no sample being taken.*

Square Bales pull a 4" cross section from the middle of the bale

Round Bales carefully pull a section from the interior of the bale approximately 8" x 14" x 18" in size

4. Exhibitors are encouraged to enter samples from different cuttings and different varieties of hay. Classes will be set up for different varieties.
5. **Hay samples must be placed in boxes provided at pickup/drop-off locations. Entry cards must be filled out completely and placed inside box on top of sample.**
6. Hay samples must be turned in at the Austin County Extension Office, Bellville Farm & Ranch Service and Linseisen's Feed & Supply Inc. in Bellville, Steinhauser's in Sealy, Bernardo Farm & Ranch in Cat Spring, 4M Farm & Feed in New Ulm, and Lindemann Store in Industry by 5:00 pm August 31, 2024.
7. **Hay classes for this year's show will be: 1) Improved (Hybrid) Bermudagrass (Except T-85) (e.g., Coastal, Jiggs, Alicia), 2) Other Bermudagrasses (e.g., Common Bermudagrass, Tifton 85), 3) Warm Season Annual Grasses (e.g., Rice Straw, Hay Grazer, Sudan Crosses, Sorghum Alum), 4) Other Warm Season Perennial Grasses (e.g., Eastern Gamagrass, Bluestem, Johnsongrass, Kleingrass, Bahiagrass), 5) Cool Season Grasses (e.g., Wheat, Oats, Cereal Rye, Ryegrass), 6) Legumes (e.g., Clover, Peanut, Cowpea), 7) Legume/Grass Mixtures (e.g., Rye/Clover, Oats/Vetch), 8) All Other Mixed Grasses (e.g., Bermudagrass/Bahia, Bermudagrass/Johnsongrass).**
8. There will be no cost for having the hay samples tested at the Texas A&M AgriLife Lab in College Station.
9. All samples are subject to be used in the Youth Forage Contest during the Austin County Fair.

Producers needing more information about the Hay Show should contact:
Austin County Extension Office at 979-865-2072.