

This column features questions from readers submitted via the website. To submit a question to Small Acre Sam, visit **BarnyardsandBackyards.com**. If your question is featured, you will receive a free one-year subscription to *Barnyards & Backyards!*



ask Sam

question

Dear Sam,

When should I cut my hay? – Jason, Big Horn Basin

Dear Jason,

Your decision to cut hay, whether grass, grass/legume mix, or legume, can result in a product ranging from supreme to low-quality hay that may or may not meet your buyer's requirements.

Decide on the market for which you are aiming. Plan crop inputs – hay type, fertilizer, water, and weed control – to reach your goal at harvest time. Alan Gray, former UW Extension forage agronomist, discusses the

attributes of quality in "Hay Quality and Marketing in the Rocky Mountain Front Range and High Plains," (B-1088) available online at <http://bit.ly/allaboutthay>.

Plant maturity at harvest is the primary factor in hay quality. Hay evaluation consists of visual evaluation and chemical analysis. Visual cues to quality include bloom, seedheads, and seed pods.

– Sam

answer

WYOMING LIVESTOCK ROUNDUP
The Weekly News Source for Wyoming's Ranchers, Farmers and AgriBusiness Community.
www.wylr.net

P.O. Box 850
Casper, WY 82602
(800) 967-1647 • (307) 234-2700

