

Area Producers Produce High Quality Hay
Bobby Smith, County Extension Agent, Morgan County

This has been one of the hardest years to produce quality forages. We had a cool, overcast, and damp spring followed by a dry spell in the summer and then in the fall, when we did get rain, it was way too much and it was difficult to get in the field to harvest. In spite of all those challenges, area producer turned out some high quality hay as shown by their placing in the Piedmont Quality Hay Contest.

In the Fifteenth Annual Piedmont Quality Hay Contest, Frank Malcolm of Newborn took home first place in the Bermuda grass category with his Coastal Bermuda grass hay, Earnest Nichols of Monticello finished second with his Tift 44 Bermuda grass hay, and Verner Farms of Rutledge finished third with their Tift 85 Bermuda grass hay. In the mixed grass division, Ottis Smith of Winder took home first place with his mixed Millet-Bermuda grass hay, Jimbo Crumley of Bostwick finished second with his mixed grass hay, and Jimbo also finished third with his mixed Ryegrass hay. There were no entries in the Legume division of the contest.

The Piedmont Quality Hay Contest is sponsored jointly by the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension and Pennington Seed, Inc. The first place winners in each division receive a plaque and \$100 of Pennington Seed Products. The second place entries receive \$75 in Pennington Seed Products and third place receives \$50 in Pennington Seed Products. The Piedmont Quality Hay Contest was held in conjunction with the Morgan County Cattlemen's Meeting.

Congratulations to the award winning hay producers who provide quality forages for the livestock in this area! For more information on producing quality forages contact your county UGA Cooperative Extension office nearest you.