ALFALFA CONTEST AND BOOTH PROMOTES QUALITY

The Situation
The Eastern Idaho State Fair forage booth is an effort by Extension Agents, Specialists, the EISF Board, alfalfa seed dealers, hay equipment dealers, and others to provide a contest and education about producing quality alfalfa during the Eastern Idaho State Fair.

The Response
The concept of a hay contest and educational booth was presented by Extension Agents and Bob Romanko to the Eastern Idaho State Fair Board in 1987. The fair board responded with an offer of prize money, ribbons, and a building to sponsor the contest.

During the fair, Extension Agents provide information and education to producers and others about hay quality and production. The entire effort required teamwork by Extension Agents in District IV plus Butte, Custer, and Lemhi Counties to promote the contest among producers, assist in taking samples for testing, setting up the hay booth, getting hay judged, and awarding prizes. During the fair, producers and others are given the chance to judge hay at the booth and receive prizes for the correct answer. The contest gives growers an opportunity to test and display quality alfalfa at the Eastern Idaho State Fair.

Achievements
Growers are very interested in the contest and the results of the tests for protein and (ADF) Acid Detergent Fiber as it relates to quality. The protein and ADF standards have also given producers a benchmark to strive for in producing quality alfalfa.

In 1993 over 250,000 people attended the EISF and depending on their interest they were able to gain knowledge about producing quality alfalfa through this educational effort by Extension.

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