Quality Standard	% Crude Protein (CP)*	ADF	NDF	RFV	Comments
Prime	Alf >19 Grass - NA	<31	×40	>151	Basically dairy quality alfalfa; may be too low ADF to maintain hindgut – mix with grass hay for horses. Unsuitable for easy keepers, obese horses, metabolic syndrome horses. Horses will need additional vitamin and mineral source (Purina® FreeBalance Horse Mineral).
1	Alf 17-19 Grass >18	31-35	40-46	125-151	Good quality alfalfa (high caloric content) – appropriate for performance horses, lactating or gestating mares, growing horses, hard keepers. Alfalfa is appropriate for gastric ulcers, IR horses. Unsuitable for easy keepers, obese horses, metabolic syndrome horses. Need additional vitamin, mineral and possibly protein source (Purina [®] FreeBalance Horse Mineral for maintenance, Purina [®] Enrich Plus for growing, gestating, lactating, working, etc.).
2	Alf 13-17 Grass 13-18	36-40	47-53	103-124	Moderate-poor quality alfalfa, good alf/grass mix, or excellent quality grass (moderate to high caloric content). Appropriate for performance horses, lactating or gestating mares, growing horses. May need to limit intake for easy keepers, obese horses, or metabolic syndrome horses, but will still need additional protein, vitamin and mineral source (Purina [®] Enrich Plus)
3	Alf <13 Grass 10-13	41-42	54-60	87-102	If alfalfa - very poor quality (unsuitable). If grass hay - very good quality (moderate caloric content). Appropriate for most classes of equines, hard keepers will probably need additional calorie sources (Purina [®] Strategy, Sr. Active, Ultium, Omolene, IMPACT Professional product lines). May need to limit intake for easy keepers, but will still need additional protein, vitamin and mineral source (Purina [®] Enrich Plus).
4	Alf - NA Grass 7-10	43-45	61-65	86-75	Moderate quality grass hay (low to moderate caloric content). Appropriate for easy keepers, obese horses, or metabolic syndrome horses. All horses will need additional protein, vitamin and mineral sources (Purina [®] Enrich Plus). Performance horses, broodmares and growing horses will likely need additional energy sources (Purina [®] Strategy, Sr. Active, Ultium, Omolene, IMPACT Professional product lines).
5	Alf - NA Grass <7	> 45	>65	<75	Very poor quality – too much indigestible fiber for horses to adequately digest and absorb nutrients. May increase the risk of digestive disturbances. If no other hay available, may replace with a complete feed/"hay stretcher" (Purina [®] Equine Senior/Adult/Junior, Omolene 400, IMPACT Hay Stretcher).

Chart based on Quality standards as classified by the Hay Market Task Force of the American Forage and Grasslands Council

* CP is not used in the calculation of RFV, thus reported CP amounts are simply estimated crude protein contents.