A DEVICE FOR USE IN DETERMINING THE MOISTURE CONTENT OF DRYING FORAGES

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The usual method of determining the moisture content of forage crops in experimental work is by taking shrinkage samples of the material. The methods of taking, handling, and using these samples have been tested and described by Arnay (1), McRostie and Hamilton (2), Vinall and McKee (3), McKee (4), and Odland and Garber (5). Three samples, varying from about 5 pounds of fresh-cut material to 2 pounds of field-cured material are generally used. Often the material is air-dried, weighed, then ground, and representative samples completely dried in an oven. The original moisture content is determined from the loss in weight.

It is evident that considerable time must elapse from the time of sampling until the moisture content can be known. This delay renders the use of such methods impractical where the next field operation

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3Reference by number is to "Literature Cited." p. 641.