ABSTRACT

The Different Drying Techniques on Nutrient Quality of 
Brachiaria humidicola, Gamal (Gliricidia sepium) and 
King Grass (Pennisetum purpureum x Pennisetum thypoides)

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Forages feed is all feed ingredients derived from plants in the form of leaves, including the grass and legume. Forage is a fresh grass which is a major source of fiber that needed by ruminants (Prihatman, 2000), but recently the use of primary sources of fiber are still used by farmers depend on the grass at the field. In the rainy season the used of grass field may result water content contained in the tall grass, so to overcome this required the presence of a process of elimination or reduction of water content contained in these materials. One simple way is through the drying process. Forage feed used were Brachiaria humidicola, Gamal (Gliricidia sepium) and King grass (P. purpureum x P. thypoides) derived from Agrostologi Field Laboratory, Faculty of Animal Science, Bogor Agricultural University.

Mechanical drying is done with the sun drying and oven drying 60°C for the intensity of drying time 7, 14 hours and 21 hours. The observed variables in this research were the loss weight of forage, loss of dry matter, dry matter, ash and organic matter content and crude protein. Data were analyzed used ANOVA, followed by Duncans test. The results showed that the differences in drying techniques influence the chemical composition of the resulting forages feed. Drying time of 21 hours of sun intensity (P3) can produce a good quality of nutrients to the amount of 88.91% dry matter (DM), 7.03% ash, 92.97% organic matter (BO) and 24.61% crude protein (PK).

Keywords: sun drying, oven heat drying, Brachiaria humidicola, Gamal (Gliricidia sepium), King grass (P. purpureum x P. thypoides)