

SAMPLING INSTRUCTIONS

It's important to keep in mind, these sampling instructions are a guide. We know it is not always possible to carry out sampling exactly as described below.

FeedTest will provide an accurate analysis of the sample received however, it is crucial that the sample is representative of the feed being tested, especially for hay and silage which can be highly variable.

Sample Collection:

Thoroughly mix core samples together and, if required, sub divide (images below) until the desired amount is reached (refer to zip lock bag). Samples should not exceed 500g.

- For hay and silage, we recommend taking the sample from the same "lot".

A "lot" can be defined as the following:

- Same stage of maturity
- Same species (pure or mixed)
- Same variety
- Same paddock
- Harvested within a 48 hour period

Other factors affecting the definition of a "lot" also include:

- Rain damage
- Weed content
- Soil type
- Treatment after cutting
- Storage methods

A "lot" of baled hay or cubes should not exceed 200 tonnes (recommendation).

Sampling Hay:

As hay and silage can be quite variable we recommend that a hay sampling probe or corer is used to acquire samples.

Made from 32mm steel tubing and approximately 450mm in length, the corer can be attached to an electric drill or hand brace. The scalloped cutting edge must be kept sharp. The corers we offer for sale are manual push corers with a hand brace.

- Each sample should consist of cores taken at random from approximately 10 conventional square bales, with each core taken from the “butt” end of a bale.
- Alternatively, take one core from each side of at least five large round or square bales.
- Thoroughly mix core samples together and sub divide until the desired amount is reached.
- Samples should not exceed 500g.

Subdividing:

Subdividing is used to obtain a representative sample of appropriate size for submitting.

- Mix together the collected feed material (or cores) thoroughly ensuring the mix is homogenous.
- Quarter the sample pile so that there are four smaller piles of approximately the same size. Make sure you include the small fragments that may be left on the bench. These are also important parts to your sample.
- Remove two diagonally opposite piles.
- Gather the two remaining piles and mix.
- Quarter the pile again and discard two quarters from the opposite positions to the ones previously taken.
- Continue the quartering and discarding process until the sample size is no more than 500 grams.



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Sampling Silage:

- Sample by hand from 10-20 spots across a freshly cut face of the stack, mix thoroughly and sub divide as above to yield a total amount not exceeding 500g.
- A hay corer may also be used (see hay sampling instructions) for wrapped bales.

Sampling Pasture:

- Walk through the paddock at random.
- Cut a sample to ground level (or where the livestock will eat to or the machine will cut to) with hand shears from near the toe of your right boot every 10 steps.
- Avoid including soil or dung in the sample. This is not what livestock generally eat.
- Ensure that an area of the same size is cut each time (approximately 6cm x 6cm) and that samples are taken from at least 10-15 locations in the paddock.
- Combine the samples, mix thoroughly and, if required, sub divide as per above to obtain a portion for submission not exceeding 500g.

IMPORTANT

- Silage and fresh pasture samples are perishable.
- In order to minimise chemical changes after collection, they must be refrigerated or frozen unless they can reach the laboratory on the same day or within a couple of days from when they were collected.
- This is particularly important during hot weather.
- Avoid mail delays over the weekend by posting these samples at the beginning of the week. Or express post your samples.
- This is particularly important for mould counts on fresh samples.

Sampling Grains, Pellets and Mixed Feeds:

- Select several sub samples from different locations or bags which make up the complete lot.
- Thoroughly mix the sub-samples to obtain a final quantity not exceeding 500g.

Sampling without a hay corer (grab samples):

- Reach as far into the bale/stack/row as possible & take a handful.
- Only retain what is within the actual fist.
- Any material that is poking out between the fingers, chop off. Any leafy material that was on these parts of the sample may've dropped off and it won't be representative.
- Complete the sample sub division process if necessary so that your sample does not exceed 500g in total.