

Forage/ Hay Sampler for the most accurate results

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Often, we get asked on the best way to obtain a Hay/ Forage sample. A Representative sample is the first step in getting an accurate feed test.

Collecting a representative sample is very important. Some important questions on forage sampling:

- How large is your sampling lot?
- What is the depth of your bales?
- What is the type of the forage?
- Was it raining or any other weather conditions while bailing?
- How are the lots divided? By field? By feeding schedule? By other factors that may have affected quality?
- Do you have a forage probe?

Make sure to follow the steps in sampling:

- Collect at least 1 core sample from each bale to represent one lot (15-20 bales). If the lot is larger select, core every second or third bale.
- Sample round bales by the round side of the bale, sample square bales at the end of the bale.
- Collect at least 1000 grams from each lot, keep half of the sample, send the other half for analysis. Try to split it evenly, fines often have high levels of nutrients. There should be at least half a large Ziploc bag sent to the lab.

- The samples you collect from each bale should not be exposed to air, and should be kept in a properly sealed ziploc bag in a cool & dry conditions.
- Send the samples, for analysis as close to the date you collected them.
- On the ziploc bag with the sample write the farmer's name, type of a forage, lot/ area where sample was collected, date of sampling and any notes for conditions the may affect the results.

At Central Testing Laboratory, we are here to help you for advice or refer you to a Nutritionist.

We have a Forage Probe available for you to use to collect sample for testing. If you are in the area, please come in person, or call us to check the availability.

See you soon!