

FEED SAMPLING PROCEDURE

Good samples are required to derive useful information from feed tests.

To obtain maximum benefit from forage testing, take your samples as directed below so samples will truly represent what is being fed to your herd. ***The importance of this cannot be overemphasized.*** When a change in the quality or type of feed is observed or suspected, it should be resampled immediately and sent to the laboratory for testing.

Baled, chopped or stacked hay should be sampled with a forage core sampler or comparable method. Your County Extension Agent or Specialist will lend you one on deposit, or you can order one from him.

Sample the hay as it is to be stored. Identify lots or stacks for further reference during feeding. Hay should be sampled separately by cuttings (1st, 2nd, etc.).

Alfalfa and other legume hays and mixed hays consisting mainly of legumes should be sampled separately from grass hays and mixed hays consisting mainly of grasses.

1. Baled Hay: Take a core sample from each of 12 to 20 bales selected randomly from various locations in the lot. Drill diagonally into end of bales to sample the upper and lower layers of hay. In loose bales, drill to full depth of sampler, and to half depth in tight bales. Combine the core samples from the same lot into a cone shaped pile. Flatten the pile and divide into quarters. Save the opposite quarters and repeat the mixing, coning, and quartering process until the volume of sample is reduced to about 1 quart.

Coning and quartering procedure:



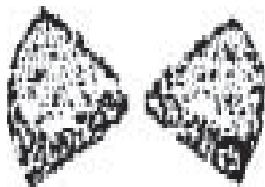
1. Pile sample into cone.



2. Flatten cone into circle.



3. Divide circle into quarters.



4. Reduce volume by removing opposite quarters.

2. Loose Hay (long or chopped): Drill the full depth of the sampler in at least 12 random locations throughout the mow. Holding the sampler vertically, drill at the spot where the hay is compressed by the weight of the operator. Discard any weather damaged surface layer that would not be included in the part being fed or sold. Reduce sample volume by coning and quartering to about 1 quart.

3. Silage, "Haylage," and Fresh Forage: Collect about half a bushel of silage or forage. It should be dug from 12 to 20 different spots over the entire freshly exposed surface on face of the silage. If you are using mechanical unloading, collect the half bushel from random spots as the silage is fed, mix thoroughly and reduce the sample volume to about 1 quart by coning and quartering. Collect samples of FRESH CUT FORAGE as it is fed or from the field.

4. Grains and other dry granular feeds: About 12 to 20 small samples taken from bags or bulk storage of the same lot of feed with a slotted sampling tube (or by hand) can be combined to make up a sample. This sample can be reduced to a volume of about 1/2 quart or 1/2 pound by coning and quartering.

SAMPLE PACKAGING AND TRANSPORTATION

Place samples in plastic bags to prevent moisture loss (wrap bagged sample in second bag to make it more airtight) and place them inside suitable containers for shipping. Samples of silage, fresh forage, and other feeds with less than 80% dry matter will begin to decompose in the sample bag unless they are kept cold in an insulated container during transportation. Otherwise, they should be delivered to the laboratory within a few hours of sampling. Send samples to: USU Analytical Laboratories, Utah State University, Logan, UT 84322-9400.

Samples larger than 1 quart cannot be accepted by the laboratory.