

Feedstuff Sampling Procedures

Forage Sampling Basics

General Guidelines

- Avoid spoilage.
- Allow fermentation to complete before sampling silage.
- Fermented forage samples should be stored in the refrigerator until shipping.
- For TMR and chopped forage samples, 8-10 lbs. should be collected initially and divided using the quadrant method (described on page 3).
- Hay samples should not be divided to prevent separation of leaves and stems.
- Each submitted sample should contain approximately 1-2 lbs. or just enough to fill the sample bag.
- Exclude as much air as possible from the sample bag for hay and silage.
- Be sure to include a completed “Virginia Precision Phosphorus Feeding Trial Submittal Form” with your sample(s).

Labeling:

- Include:
 - Farm name
 - Sample description
 - Date sampled



TMR Sample Collection

- Place a small, clean bucket at the beginning, middle, and end of the bunk.
- Distribute the ration as usual.
- Collect the buckets and combine into one sample.
- Mix thoroughly.
- A total of 8-10 lbs. is needed.
- Divide using the quadrant method (see page 3).



Forage Sample Collection



Upright silos with chutes:

- Collect 8-10 lbs. as the silo is unloading.
- Take samples from both the morning and evening feedings and combine.
- Mix thoroughly.
- Divide using the quadrant method (see page 3).



Bunker Silos:

- Remove a layer from the silo face using a bucket loader, avoiding spoiled areas.
- Collect 8-10 lbs. and combine in a 5 gallon bucket.
- Mix thoroughly.
- Divide using the quadrant method.

Upright silos with conveyors:

- As the silo is unloading, remove handfuls of silage before it enters the conveyor. Collect a total of 8-10 lbs.
- Divide using the quadrant method (see page 3).



Hay bales:

- Use a core sampler with a minimum internal diameter of 3/8" and 12-18" length attached to a 1/2" drill or hand brace.
- Insert the core sampler at 90° angle into one end of the bale.
- Detach the core sampler and use a plunger to empty the sample onto a clean surface.
- Core 15-20 bales for each sample.
- Mix all of the cores thoroughly.

Preparing the Sample



Quadrant Method (EXCLUDING HAY SAMPLES):

- Start with 8-10 lbs. of sample.
- Empty your sample onto a clean piece of plastic on a flat surface.
- Use a clean sharp object (such as a clean sharp shovel, clean piece of sheet metal, or clean wide blade putty knife) to divide the sample into quarters.
- Remove opposite quadrants.
- Combine the remaining two quadrants by emptying the material on the plastic into a clean container.
- Mix well.
- Repeat the above procedure until you have the desired 1-2 lbs. for the sample to be submitted.

Filling the Sample Bag:

- Fill a clean plastic sample bag with 1-2 lbs. of sample.
- Exclude all air from the sample bag.
- Properly identify the sample and mail to the forage lab using the materials provided.



Finally....Ship It!

