

FORAGE

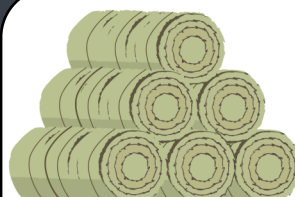
SAMPLING BEST PRACTICES



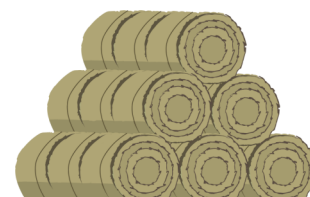
A feed test result is only as good as the sample provided. Follow proper sampling techniques to ensure an accurate test result.

Group Forage To Be Sampled Into Lots

Group and collect forage samples in lots, which could be based on forage maturity, variety, harvest date, a single field or a single cutting.



Lot #1
High Quality



Lot #2
Rain Damage

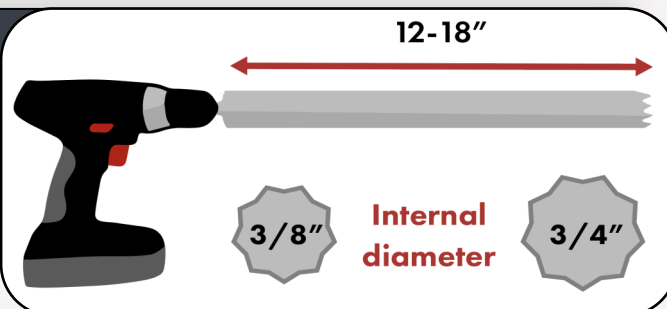
Sample at the Right Time

Collect samples **when management decisions are being made** or as close to feed-out as possible. For ensiled forages, collect samples during harvest or wait a **minimum of four weeks after ensiling** before sampling.

Use the Right Tools

- Forage probe
- Clean container for collecting samples
- Plastic sample bags
- Clippers (for standing or swathed forage)

Work with your nutritionist or local extension office to obtain a forage sample probe.



Sample at Random

Collect samples at random for each forage lot. **DO NOT** avoid bales that appear below average or areas in a field with poor forage cover.

Label Samples Properly

Clearly label samples with farm name, forage type, date collected, plus lot number or description. Contact your laboratory for further labelling instructions.

Allow Time for Sample Turnaround

Allow a minimum **two-week turnaround** time from when you collect samples and receive lab results.

Use the Test Results

Work with your nutritionist or input feed analysis results into ration-balancing software to **formulate balanced feed rations** for your herd.

A list of Canadian feed testing labs is available at:
BeefResearch.ca/labs.



Scan for list

CowBytes ration-balancing software is available for purchase at CowBytes.ca.



CowBytes.ca