

# Collecting & Posting Fresh Pasture Samples



The sampling and posting method for pasture is important to obtain a result that shows the true representation of the feed that will be consumed.

Using a clean, uncontaminated bucket, start at one corner of the paddock and walk diagonally to the opposite corner. Cut approximately 15 to 20 samples at grazing height across random distances along the way. Once you have walked the length of the paddock to the opposite corner, mix the samples collected thoroughly. Doing so will ensure the sample is indicative of the entire paddock. If required, take a sub sample from your initial bulk sample before packing it into the Fodder Link zip lock bag. Once the bag is full, press and squeeze to remove as much air as possible and seal. Label the bag concisely with the date of collection, full name, commodity, species, and a reference that allows you to recognise where the sample was collected. Please disregard the Fodder Link Batch ID, as this only applies to product available to be entered in the Fodder Link App for marketing and sale purposes, such as baled hay, straw, silage, by-products, etc.

At this stage, the pasture plant is still respiring, and therefore, burning energy and sugars and producing water and carbon dioxide. To slow these chemical processes that degrade the product quality and alter NIR results, Fodder Link strongly recommend freezing your sample immediately after collection for approximately 12 hours before preparing for postage. This only applies to NIR tests and Wet Chemistry tests. Please note that if you require a Mould And Yeast test, do not freeze your sample. It is also suggested to send the sample at the beginning of the working week to avoid weekend postage delays.

When you are ready to send the sample to the Fodder Link laboratory, wrap the sample bag in an insulator, such as bubble wrap or newspaper, and place it into a Fodder Link reply paid postage bag, along with a completed sample submission form. Email or text your completed submission form to the feed testing team so we know when to expect your samples and flag possible delays.

Upon receipt of your sample at the Fodder Link laboratory, you will receive a tax invoice. Once payment is complete, your feed test/s will be emailed to you directly.



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