



Collecting & Posting Hay Samples

Sampling techniques have a large effect on feed test values. If a representative sample is not taken, the results will not reflect the overall average composition of the product. Therefore, samples should be collected from various areas of the stack.

A hay corer is the most reliable piece of equipment to use when drilling into the centre of the bale to obtain a sample accurately representing the product, without breaking the bale open or negatively affecting bale consistency. It is recommended that round bales should be sampled from the middle of the curved surface and square bales from the end. If a corer is unattainable, an alternative is the hand grab sample method. Fold a side of the bale as open as possible with your hands, and grab a sample that has had no environmental exposure, to ensure results are not inhibited. Randomly sample 20% of the product line and combine thoroughly in an uncontaminated bucket. This is what is referred to as the bulk sample. If the bulk sample is too large, a smaller 'sub' sample can split and packed into the zip lock bag. You are free to disregard the remaining contents from the bucket if needed.

Once the bag is full to the allocated line, 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 from. If a batch number has been generated through the MyFodderLink App as a self-inspection, or the product has been assessed by Fodder Link staff, write the batch number on the zip Lock bag so laboratory staff can match the results to visual data accordingly.

When you are ready to send the sample to the Fodder Link laboratory, 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 via email a tax invoice. Once payment is complete, your feed test/s will be emailed to you.



feedtests@fodderlink.com.au
www.fodderlink.com.au
1800 363 337