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Submission form Hay / Fodder

Please refer to Hay / Fodder sampling procedure sheet for correct method of sampling and fill out all details below before submitting samples

BILLING NAME:			
POSTAL ADDRESS:			
CONTACT NAME:			
PHONE:		FAX:	
email:			
PROPERTY NAME:		DATE SAMPLED:	
Any Comments:			

DO YOU REQUIRE AN INDEPENDENT INTERPRETATION (please circle) YES or NO

	1	2
Sample identification		
Test Requested: (eg, DryMatter, Protein full nutrient test or full feed test):		
Variety or Crop Type:		
Type of hay		
Age of hay or date baled		

Hay / Fodder Sampling Procedure

The accuracy of fodder analysis depends on the sample sent to the laboratory. It is critical that the sample represents the average composition of the "lot" of fodder sampled; otherwise the laboratory tests will not be useful.

A "lot" is defined as hay or silage taken from:

- the same species (pure or mixed) and variety;
- the same paddock or pit/bunker; and
- harvested within 48 hours.

A "lot" of baled hay or cubes should not exceed 200 tonnes.

Sampling Equipment: Representative hay samples can only be obtained with a probe or core sampling device. *Do not rely on a couple of handfuls or a "flake" from one bale.*

□□A home-made corer can be made from 32mm steel tubing. It should be at least 450mm long with a slightly scalloped and sharp cutting edge.

□□Corers are driven using either a hand brace or by a continuously variable speed, electric drill (preferred option where practicable). A portable generator is useful and can be justified if many samples are to be taken. Cordless drills can be used if they meet power (torque) requirements.

Sampling Procedure: HAY

1. Small square bales:

- Sample between 10 and 20 small square bales, selected at random from the "lot".
- Take one core from each bale selected, probing near the centre of the "butt" end and at right angles to the surface. **Ensure that the corer does not get hot.**
- Combine all cores into a single sample in a bucket and mix thoroughly. *Keep the whole sample intact - do not subdivide at this stage.*

2. Large round or square bales:

- Sample between 5 and 10 large bales, selected at random from the lot.
- Take one core from each side of all bales selected, probing at right angles to the surface at different heights.
- Combine all cores into a single sample in a bucket and mix thoroughly. *Keep the whole sample intact - do not subdivide at this stage.*

3. Cubes or pellets:

- Select a good handful of cubes or pellets from at least 6 locations or bags, which make up the complete lot.
- Combine the sub-samples in a bucket and mix thoroughly.
- Use "Coning and Quartering" process to reduce sample size to at least 250g, but not more than 500g.

Sample Handling: Immediately after sampling and mixing, use the "Coning and Quartering" process to reduce the sample size if necessary. The final fodder sample must be placed in a robust (preferably "press-seal") plastic bag and tightly sealed to exclude air. This is to ensure that the laboratory report of dry matter will approximate the dry matter content of the lot when it was sampled.

Sample Coning and Quartering: *This is the process used to reduce the size of a sample to a convenient amount for submission to the laboratory. It involves the following steps:*

- Spread the entire sample over a clean surface or tray and mix well to ensure even distribution of leaf and stem;*
- fold the outer edges back into the middle to form a "Cone" or "Mound" of material;*
- Divide this "Cone" into four equal "Quarters";*
- Select any two diagonally opposed "Quarters" and either transfer this sub-sample to a clean plastic bag or suitable container for sending to the laboratory or repeat the "Coning and Quartering" cycle until a final sample in the correct weight range is obtained. Discard the unselected "Quarters".*

Sample Dispatch: Samples must be delivered to the laboratory as quickly as possible after being taken.

Avoid mail delays over the weekend by posting samples early in the week.

If you have any further queries or problems regarding sampling or sample handling, contact laboratory for further information.

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