



FORAGE SAMPLING INSTRUCTIONS

Sampling pasture

1. Collect pasture samples from a 1-foot square area. Sample only the same type of forage that the horses are grazing. Sample 10-20 sites.
2. Using a scissors, cut the pasture to within 1 inch of the ground. Do not collect soil contaminated pasture. Cut all samples to a length of 1 inch and place all samples into a clean bucket.
3. After sampling is complete, mix the samples well and place the forage into a plastic sealable bag (1 gallon Ziplock®). Label the bag with the date of sampling, the collection site, and the owner's name.
4. If the sugar and starch content of the sample is of special interest, the sample should be frozen, and shipped on ice to the analysis company.

Sampling hay using a core hay sampler

1. Choose 10-20 bales randomly from the hay shipment. Only one type of forage should be submitted for analysis in the same container. If more than one type of hay is analyzed, each should be placed into a separate, labeled plastic bag.
2. Use the core hay sampler with a ratchet brace or drill to collect 2 samples from each bale. Square bales should be sampled from the long end of the bale. Round bales should be sampled along a horizontal line at the curve of the bale. Place all samples into a plastic sealable bag (1 gallon Ziplock®), and label the bag with the date, type of hay, and owner's name.

Sampling hay by hand

1. Choose 10-20 bales randomly from the hay shipment. Only one type of forage should be submitted for analysis in the same container. If more than one type of hay is analyzed, each should be placed into a separate, labeled plastic bag.
2. Open the bale, and divide the bale in thirds. Collect a handful of hay from the center of the bale at each site (2 samples per bale). Include everything that you have grabbed (including weeds and other plants) in the sample. Cut all samples to a length of 1" and place all samples into a clean bucket. Thoroughly mix the cut hay samples, place the forage into a plastic sealable bag (1 gallon Ziplock®), and label the bag with the date, type of hay, and owner's name. Ensure that all parts of the sample (leaves and stems) are included in the final sample.