

Grain and Pasture Sampling Guidelines

AFIA recommended method

Grain

For grain samples taken from a silo or field bin:

1. Fill a plastic bucket full of grain and take 5+ random handfuls from the bucket and place in the zip lock bag provided.
2. Discard the remaining grain from the bucket, refill and repeat STEP 1 above – two more times until you have filled the zip lock bag 2/3 full.

Pasture

To collect a pasture sample for NIR analysis, follow procedure below:

1. Start at red dot (cnr of paddock) and cut approx. a 5cm² area of pasture to ground level and place in zip lock bag provided.
2. Walk diagonally through the paddock and continue sampling (step 1) (green dots in diagram), until you reach the other end of the paddock.
3. If you get to the other side of paddock and zip lock bag is not full, walk to the opposite corner and repeat steps 1 and 2 above (follow purple line) until bag is full.
4. If you get half way across the paddock and you realise the bag is filling too quickly, take more steps in between sampling sites to ensure you cover the whole paddock

To obtain the best pasture sample possible:

- Use a pair of hand shears or an electric hand-piece with worn out combs.
- Avoid collecting leaves, dirt and dung in the sample
- Avoid sampling on stock camps, dung or urine patches

When you have finished sampling

1. Fill bag FULL with pasture or 2/3 full with grain. Exclude as much air as possible from bag before sealing. Do not fill above the line marked on the bag for your given feed type.
2. Important that pasture sample is placed in fridge NOT freezer if not sent on same day as collected.
3. Avoid sending the sample(s) late in the week, e.g Thursday or Friday. If harvested late in the week, leave in fridge over weekend and send on Monday.
4. Use the pre-paid satchel to post your sample to FeedTest in Werribee

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Hay & Silage Sampling Guidelines

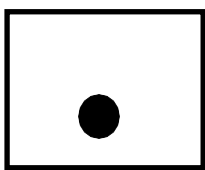
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The accuracy of your FeedTest results depends largely on the sample you send to the laboratory.

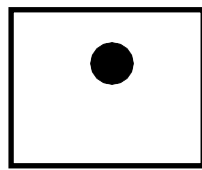
1. The best method for obtaining a uniform and representative sample is a core sample. Grab samples (flakes) are not recommended.
2. To obtain a corer, there are 3 options:
 - a. Buy one – TONWEN ENGINEERING Hamilton
(03) 5571 1843
 - b. Borrow one – From Dynamic Ag
 - c. Make one – If you're doing a lot of testing.

Sampling large square bales and round rolls

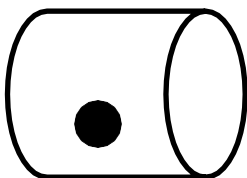
Sample (core) between 5 and 10 bales selected at random from the stack. Take one core from each side of the bale at different heights and repeat this on the remaining bales you have selected for coring.



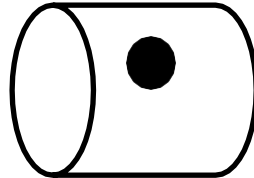
Front of bale



back of bale



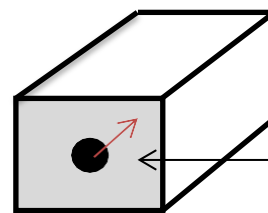
Side 1 of bale



Side 2 of bale

Sampling small square bales

Sample (core) between 10 and 20 bales selected at random from the stack. Take one core from each of the bales selected in the centre of the bale on the longest edge of the bale or "butt" end as shown below.



Insert corer here and push back through the bale in the direction of the red arrow

When you have finished coring

- Combine the core samples into the zip lock bag provided and exclude as much air as possible before sealing the bag. Do not allow sample to sit in the hot car/ute or in the sun before sending. Do not fill above the line marked on the bag for your given feed type.
- Post the sample(s) using the reply paid bags provided to FeedTest in Werribee