

Grain and Pasture sampling Instructions 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 sample zip lock bag provided by the laboratory
2. Discard the remaining grain from the bucket, refill and repeat STEP 1 above – two more times until you have filled the sample bag to the specified line.

Pasture

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

Start at one end of the paddock and cut approx. a 5cm² area of pasture to ground level and place in zip lock bag provided

1. Walk diagonally through the paddock and continue sampling until you reach the other end of the paddock.
2. 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.

To obtain the best pasture sample possible:

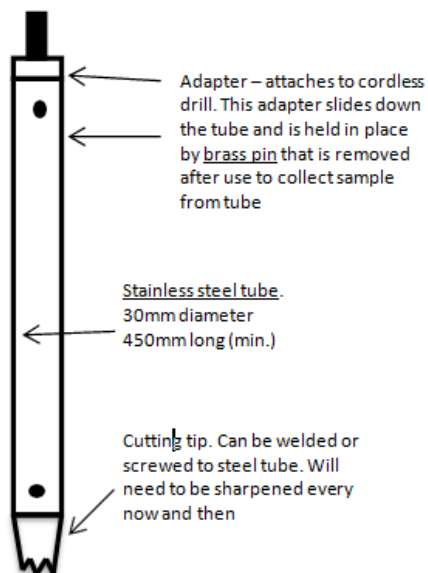
1. Use a pair of hand shears
2. Do not pick up dung or dirt with grass cuttings
If you get half way across the paddock and you find the bag is filling too quickly, take more steps between each sample location to ensure the whole paddock is covered
3. Do not sample pasture on stock camps, dung or urine patches
4. It is important that your zip lock bag does not become full half way across the paddock as this indicates your sample volume at each location is too much and it will not truly represent the entire paddock.

When you have finished sampling

1. Exclude as much air as possible from the bag before sealing.
2. Important that pasture sample is placed in fridge NOT freezer if not posted on the same day as it was 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. This avoids samples sitting at the post office over the weekend

The accuracy of your feed test report depends largely on the sample you send to the laboratory.

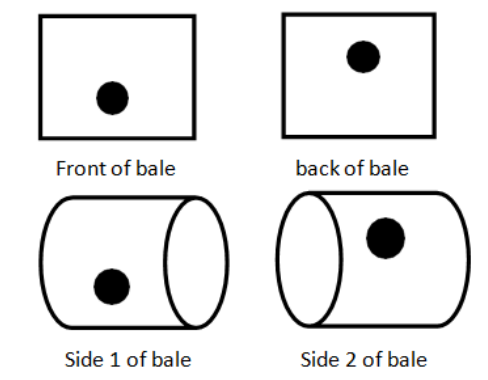
The best method for obtaining a uniform and representative sample is a core sample. Grab samples (flakes) are not recommended.



Hay and Silage

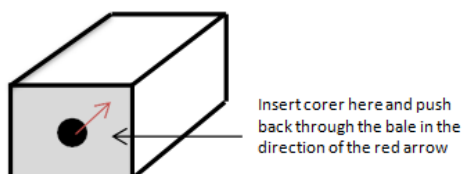
Sampling large square bales and round rolls

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.



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.



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.
- Deliver or post the sample(s) to the laboratory