

SOIL, PLANT AND WATER ANALYSIS LABORATORY STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY P.O. Box 13025 Nacogdoches, Texas 75962 936-468-4500 FORAGE & FEED SAMPLE INFORMATION SHEET

PROCEDURE FOR TAKING FORAGE SAMPLES

Forage or leaf tissue tests can be only as accurate as the samples on which they are made. Proper collection of forage or leaf tissue samples is extremely important. Chemical tests on poorly taken samples may actually be misleading.

- 1. Sample Different Lots of Hay Separately. Kind of hay, time of cutting, fertilizer rates (especially nitrogen), and weather conditions at harvest will influence nutritional values. It is more important to sample each kind of hay and each cutting than it is to sample hay that has or has not been rained on. If your different lots of hay are stored together and will be fed at the same time, then get hay from several bales from each lot and mix together to make one sample for analysis.
- **2. Get hay from 10 to 12 bales per lot or cutting.** If possible use a core sampling tool to get the sub-samples. Take the core from the end of small rectangular bales, and from the side of large round bales or other big packages. If the bale is stored in the open get your sample from far enough in the bale to avoid the spoiled outer layer.
- **3. Mix the samples well** before placing in a plastic bag for mailing to the lab. If samples are wet or have a high moisture content, let air dry for 1 day before putting in bag to mail. A quart size bag will hold enough hay for the laboratory analysis.
- **4. If forage is collected from a pasture,** clip plants from a square foot area in about 10 different places in the pasture. These samples can be dried in the shade before mailing. About a quart sample is needed. A Ziploc® quart size bag is ideal. **DESCRIPTION OF FORAGE TESTS**

Regular Test: \$14.00 per sample.

Moisture content, plus wet chemistry analysis of crude protein and acid detergent fiber. An estimate of TDN is included.

Complete Test: \$26.00 per sample.

Includes Regular Test plus calcium, phosphorus, potassium, magnesium, sodium, sulfur, iron, manganese, zinc, and copper.

Nitrate Test (extra): \$7.00 per sample.

For use on forage where drought stress may cause nitrate poisoning. This test is in addition to a regular or complete test

Mailing Instructions: Place sample bags in a box and wrap securely. Unwrapped sample bags are often broken in the mail. Place forage sample information sheet and check or money order in an envelope inside the box of samples.

MAILING ADDRESS:

SFASU Soil, Plant and Water Analysis Laboratory

Box 13025, SFA Station

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