

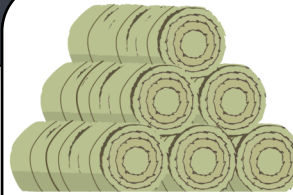
# FORAGE SAMPLING BEST PRACTICES



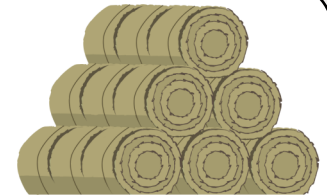
A feed test result is only as good as the sample provided. Follow proper sampling techniques to ensure an accurate test result.

## Group Forage To Be Sampled Into Lots

Group and collect forage samples in lots, which could be based on forage maturity, variety, harvest date, a single field or a single cutting.



Lot #1  
High Quality



Lot #2  
Rain Damage

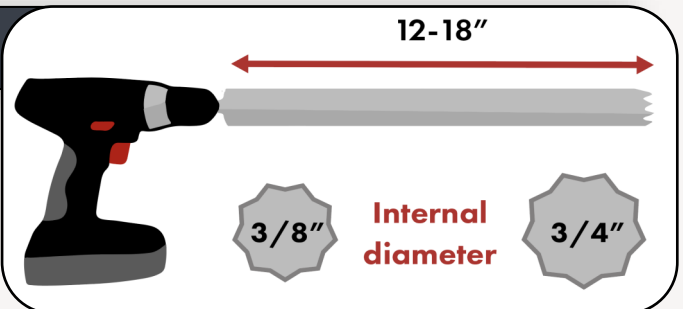
## Sample at the Right Time

Collect samples when management decisions are being made or as close to feed-out as possible. For ensiled forages, collect samples during harvest or wait a minimum of four weeks after ensiling before sampling.

## Use the Right Tools

- Forage probe
- Clean container for collecting samples
- Plastic sample bags
- Clippers (for standing or swathed forage)

Work with your nutritionist or local extension office to obtain a forage sample probe.



## Sample at Random

Collect samples at random for each forage lot. DO NOT avoid bales that appear below average or areas in a field with poor forage cover.

## Allow Time for Sample Turnaround

Allow a minimum two-week turnaround time from when you collect samples and receive lab results.

## Label Samples Properly

Clearly label samples with farm name, forage type, date collected, plus lot number or description. Contact your laboratory for further labelling instructions.

## Use the Test Results

Work with your nutritionist or input feed analysis results into ration-balancing software to formulate balanced feed rations for your herd.

A list of Canadian feed testing labs is available at: [BeefResearch.ca/labs](https://BeefResearch.ca/labs).



Scan for list

CowBytes ration-balancing software is available for purchase at [CowBytes.ca](https://CowBytes.ca).



CowBytes.ca