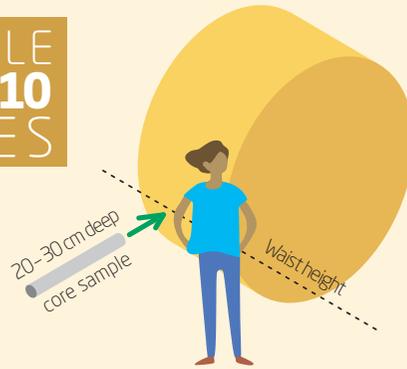
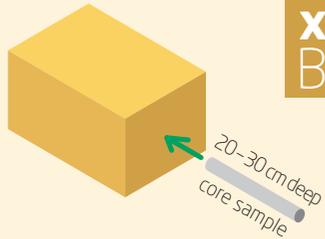


Taking the forage sample

Small square bale

Large square or round bale

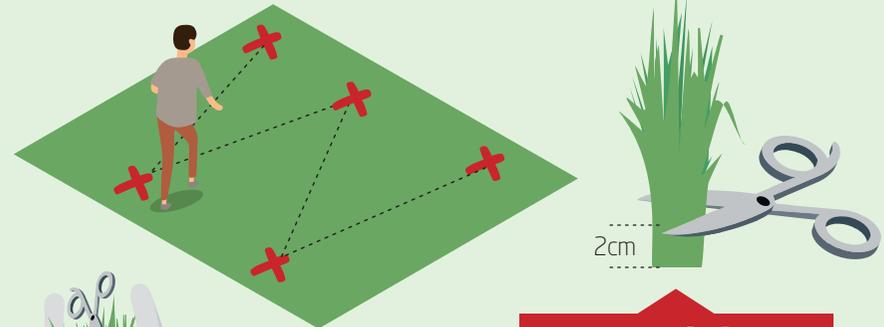
SAMPLE x6 to 10 BALES



SAMPLE x6 to 10 BALES Corers can be bought or hired from Forageplus. If you do not have a corer then you can use a hand grab method

If the hay or haylage is very wet, drying is recommended

Walk in a 'W' shape, take a large batch from each point



use stainless steel scissors!

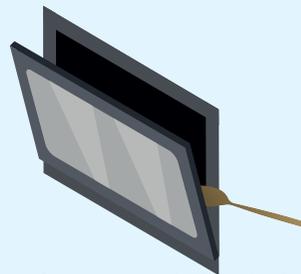
Cut all batches into 5 - 8 cm pieces and mix in a bag. Take a **150 gram sample of this mix** to be analysed.

For damp or wet grass, drying is recommended

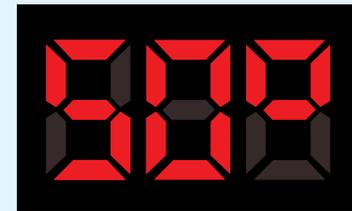
Drying



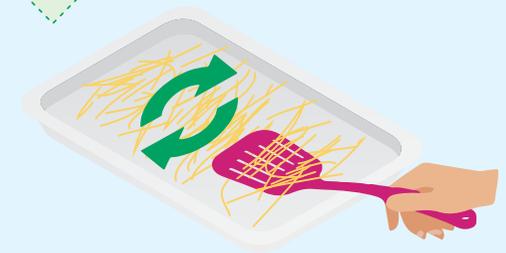
Spread sample out on glass or ceramic tray



Oven fan on and chock door open with wooden spoon



50 degrees until dry



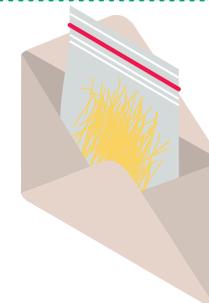
Turn sample with **plastic** spatula regularly during heating

Sending



Secure in the pre-labelled plastic bag and seal with tape to prevent spillage.

Please make sure you FILL the sample bag with at least 150 grams



Put the sample bags into the grey pre-labelled postage bag and return to Forageplus. Please note: we need you to pay the postage to return the samples to us:

Forageplus
Unit 10, Broncoed Business Park,
Wrexham Road, Mold, Flintshire, CH7 1HP

Forageplus™ - Mineral Analysis

Taking forage samples for horse forage analysis accurately is very important. Forage samples are based on a small sample, which is selected to represent a larger sample. It is very important to obtain a representative sample so that the analysis has the maximum use and is as accurate as possible. By this we mean that you should try to obtain a sample which does not just come from one bale or one part of a field.

The sample size

Please make sure you FILL the sample bag, bags which are not filled may have insufficient sample for the lab to test which will result in you being required to provide a second sample and your results being delayed.

Sampling hay or haylage

When sampling large bales, if possible, locate a hay probe or corer so that you can core the centre of the bale. Forageplus sell and hire corer probes. This approach will give more accuracy than a hand grab approach.

Collect all the samples mix thoroughly in a large clean plastic bag and then take a sample of this mix and fill the sample bag provided.

Sometimes cutting the hay or grass into smaller pieces helps mixing. Always use stainless steel scissors to avoid contaminating your sample with iron.

Squeeze out the air before sealing well and then post immediately to preserve freshness.

Large round bales

Take a core sample at waist height on the round side of the bale 20 – 30 cm deep or try to burrow into the bale on the round side to obtain a sample.

Reseal using patches if the bale is haylage. The bale will be fine once sealed again as long as the wrapping is dry. You can buy patches and haylage tape at a farm supply store.

For the analysis to be as accurate as possible you will need to sample at least 6 – 10 different bales.

Large square bales

Take a core sample through the centre of one end of the bale 20 – 30cm deep or try burrowing into the bale at one end to obtain a sample.

Reseal using patches if the bale is haylage. The bale will be fine once sealed again as long as the wrapping is dry. You can buy patches and haylage tape at a farm supply store.

For the analysis to be as accurate as possible you will need to sample at least 6 – 10 different bales.

Small square bales

If using a corer take a core sample through the centre of one end of the bale 20 – 30 cm deep or open the bale up and hand grab a sample from the centre.

Reseal using patches if the bale is haylage. The bale will be fine once sealed again as long as the wrapping is dry. You can buy patches and haylage tape at a farm supply store.

For the analysis to be as accurate as possible you will need to sample at least 12 – 20 different bales.

Sampling Grass

Walk the fields to be sampled in a W shape. Each time you reach a point of the W cut a sample. In fields that are being grazed selecting the areas grazed by the horses will give a truer sample.

Ensure this sample is cut with stainless steel scissors 2 cm above the soil. Failure to do this may result in contamination of your sample, which will then mean it is inaccurate.

Remember for the analysis to be as accurate as possible you will need to collect a sample that is greater than the amount you send as the sample itself.

Collect your sample in a supermarket carrier bag, mix thoroughly (further cutting the forage into 5 - 8 cm pieces aids in blending). Then take a sample from this bag and place in the sample bag to be sent to the analytical company.

Make sure you send the sample in the next post preferably Monday to Wednesday so that the sample reaches the lab quickly and does not degrade.

Please make sure you FILL the sample bag, bags which are not filled may have insufficient sample for the lab to test which will result in you being required to provide a second sample and your results being delayed.

Squeeze out the air before sealing and then post immediately to preserve freshness.

International customers

If you are an international customer you will need to dry the grass in an oven (see below). If you want to calculate the dry matter content of your grass then please ask for further instructions.

Mineral Analysis

Put the sample bags into the grey pre-labelled postage bag and return to Forageplus. Please note: we need you to pay the postage to return the samples to us:

Forageplus
Unit 10, Broncoed Business Park,
Wrexham Road,
Mold,
Flintshire,
CH7 1HP

Drying the sample

If the haylage you are sending is very wet then drying the forage in a very low temperature oven is recommended (see the infographic).

Sending the sample

Try to sample and post all samples on a Monday or early in the week so the sample reaches the lab or us before Friday and does not sit in a post box all weekend.

An analysis is only as good as the sample submitted. Taking a good representative sample of your feed is the first and most critical step of the analysis process, yet it is often the step that is the most taken for granted.