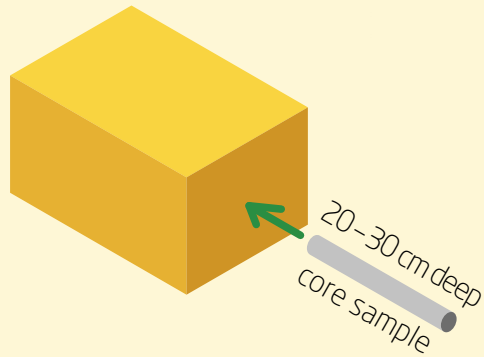


Forageplus™ - Nutritional Analysis

Small square bale

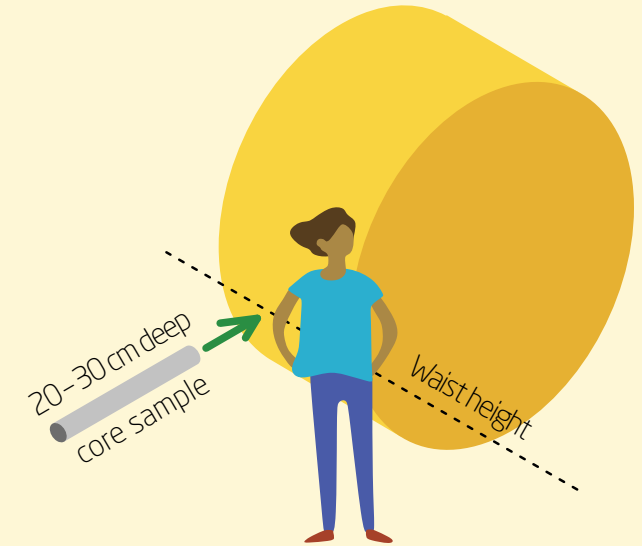


SAMPLE
x6 to 10
BALES

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

Large square or round bale

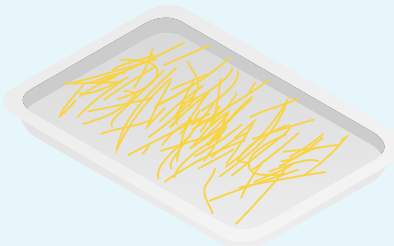


If the hay or haylage is very wet, drying is recommended

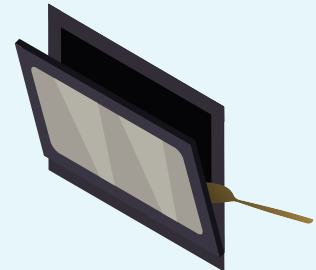
Taking the forage sample

Drying

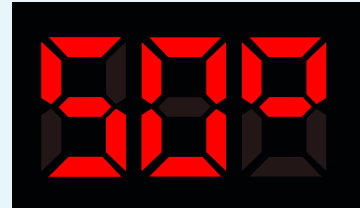
Sending



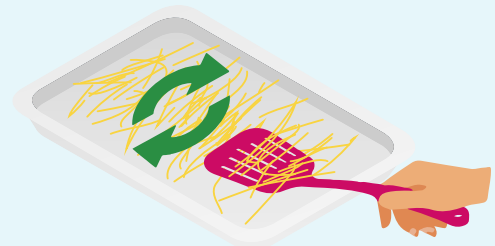
Spread sample out on glass or ceramic tray



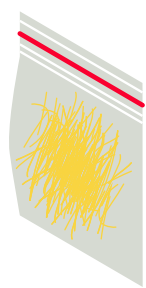
Oven fan on and chock door open with wooden spoon



50 degrees until dry

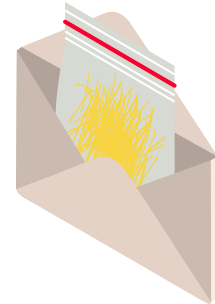


Turn sample with **plastic** spatula regularly during heating



Secure in a plastic bag (eg zip-lock) and seal with tape to prevent spillage.

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



Clearly label all sample bags with your name, address and order number and send to:
Unit 10, Broncoed Business Park, Wrexham Road, Mold, Flintshire, CH7 1HP

Forageplus™ - Nutritional 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 a sample bag.

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 back to Forageplus 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.

Nutritional Analysis

All samples for nutritional analysis are sent to Forageplus. This is so we can process the customs requirements for sending to our lab in the USA. If you are sending samples to us for nutritional analysis then approximately 150 grams of sample is needed.

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.