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Submission form Silage

Please refer to Silage sampling Procedure sheet for correct method of sampling and fill out all details below before submitting samples

BILLING NAME:			
POSTAL ADDRESS:			
CONTACT NAME:			
PHONE:		**FAX:**	
email:			
PROPERTY NAME:		**DATE SAMPLED:**	
Any Comments:			

	1	2
Sample identification		
Test Requested: *(eg pH,Dry Matter, Protein or full feed test):*		
Variety or Crop Type:		
Type of silage *(eg pit, bunker or baled,)*		
Age of Silage or date ensilaged		

SILAGE

Sampling Procedure

The accuracy of fodder analysis depends on the sample sent to the laboratory. It is critical that the sample represents the average composition of the "lot" of fodder sampled; otherwise the laboratory tests will not be useful. A "lot" is defined as hay or silage taken from:
- the same species (pure or mixed) and variety;
- the same paddock or pit/bunker; and
- harvested within 48 hours.

Silage is best sampled at least 3 weeks after it has been ensiled and as close to the time of feeding as is practicable.

1. *Pit or bunker silage:*

a*) Unopened pit or bunker* - Obtain core samples for analysis using a long coring devicethat extends deeply into the pit or bunker. Sample from at least 3 to 5 locations to ensure a representative sample.
b) *Opened pit or bunker* - Take random grab samples from at least 10 locations across a freshly cut face of the stack, although this will not provide as good a representative sample as multi-site coring.
c) Combine all the material into a single sample in a bucket and mix thoroughly. Keep the whole sample intact and do not subdivide at this stage.

2. *Wrapped baled silage*

a) Sample between 5 and 10 large bales at random using a coring device in the same manner as for large hay bales.
Note: This procedure is acceptable only if great care is taken to reseal the holes made in the plastic by the corer**.**
b) Combine all cores into a single sample in a bucket and mix thoroughly. *Keep the whole sample intact - do not subdivide at this stage.*

Sample Handling: Immediately after sampling and mixing, use the “Coning and Quartering” process to reduce the sample size if necessary. The final fodder sample must be placed in a robust (preferably "press-seal") plastic bag and tightly sealed to exclude air. This is to ensure that the laboratory report of dry matter will approximate the dry matter content of the lot when it was sampled.

Sample Coning and Quartering: *This is the process used to reduce the size of a sample to a convenient amount for submission to the laboratory. It involves the following steps:*
a) Spread the entire sample over a clean surface or tray and mix well to ensure even distribution of leaf and stem;
b) Fold the outer edges back into the middle to form a “Cone” or “Mound” of material;
c) Divide this “Cone” into four equal “Quarters”;
d) Select any two diagonally opposed “Quarters” and either transfer this sub-sample to a clean plastic bag or suitable container for sending to the laboratory or repeat the “Coning and Quartering” cycle until a final sample in the correct weight range is obtained. Discard the unselected “Quarters”.

Sample Dispatch: Samples must be delivered to the laboratory as quickly as possible after being taken. Unless silage samples can reach the laboratory on the same day they are collected, they must be frozen immediately. This is especially important during hot weather.
Avoid mail delays over the weekend by posting samples early in the week.
If you have any further queries or problems regarding sampling or sample handling, contact laboratory for further information.

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