

HOW TO CORE HAY

(Sample)



TEST YOUR HAY

Taking hay samples is one step to ensure the nutrient requirements of your animals are being met.

Having a general idea of the quality of your forage will enable you to provide the lowest cost ration possible. to meet your performance expectations.

WHAT DO YOU NEED?

- Hay Probe
- Cordless Drill
- 1 Gallon Ziplock Bag
- 5 Gallon Bucket
- Permanent Marker



HOW TO TAKE A PROPER HAY SAMPLE

1. **Select random bales throughout the lot you wish to sample.**
2. **Obtain a sample from as far inside the bale as possible.**
 - ➔ **Sampling with hay probe: Reach as far as possible inside the bale with your coring tool. This can be more difficult when bales are wet or when the hay is very mature. In those cases, a spare battery for the drill is helpful especially if a large number of bales are to be probed.**
3. **Place sample from bale into a clean 5 gallon bucket.**
4. **Repeat steps 2 & 3 until you have at least 10 samples from 10% of the bales in the lot you are testing. All samples will be placed into the same 5 gallon bucket.**
5. **After sampling the desired number of bales, the entire sample should be pulled apart and mixed very thoroughly. You cannot rely on the lab to mix your sample.**
6. **Dump sample into re-sealable plastic bag and remove any excess air. It is fine if the bag is not completely full, but you will need approximately 1/2 a quart of material in the bag.**

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