

How to Collect Feed for Nutrient and Disease Testing

Testing your feed is a great way to see what nutrients or diseases are being fed daily.

Follow the step below to understand how to get the best possible samples!

STEP ONE: Gathering your supplies

For feed that is baled, a hay probe is the best way we suggest to collect your sample(s). It will give you a more representative sample than trying to pull from the sides of the bale or opening the bale (you get leaf shatter if you do this). For feed that is from bunk or silage, we'll explain the best way to collect in the next step. Each sample can be placed in a plastic baggie that can close with a zip top. For your convenience we can provide a hay probe and bags!

STEP TWO: Collecting your sample

As we described before, baled hay is best sampled with a hay probe. Taking the probe and inserting it into the side of the bale multiple times, each time placing the sample into your already opened bag. For feed that is from bunk or silage: remove the top six inches (for contamination purposes), reach down and grab a handful, place in your already opened bag. Do this 3 to 5 times (or more) from different areas to ensure a proper sample.

STEP THREE: Mailing, shipping or bringing in your sample

So you've collected your sample, or multiple samples. Now what? If you're mailing your feed samples in please package with care so they don't open in the process. Please utilize our submission forms at www.westernlaboratories.com/submission-forms. This ensures we give your sample the testing you're looking for. If you're bringing your sample into the lab, we have submission forms printed off for your convenience.

STEP FOUR: What happens now?

Once your sample is received, it's ran for the testing that you've requested. Your results are sent to the valid email listed on your submission form.

As always, please remember the best sample begins with you!

For any further questions or concerns, please contact us.