



The Healthy Horse Company

For optimum equine health... naturally

*Fircrest, Marshborough Road, Woodnesborough
Sandwich, Kent, CT13 0PE*

TAKING FORAGE SAMPLES (HAY OR HAYLAGE) FOR NUTRITIONAL AND MINERAL ANALYSIS.

Information:

Forage analysis results (nutritional and mineral) are only as accurate as the quality of the sample taken, so it is crucial to take a good representative sample of your forage. The analysis results are based on a small sample, and are representative of a larger sample. It is important that the forage analysis results are therefore as accurate as can be (based on a representative sample) to be as useful as possible. The results of your forage analysis can be incorporated into a bespoke feed plan. If you have ordered both nutritional and mineral analysis tests, then you will need to fill a sample bag for each test ordered. Please follow the steps below once you have paid for your forage analysis test(s):

Taking samples:

Small Bales - Randomly select 12 – 20 bales. If using a probe, take core samples 20cm – 30cm deep. If no probe is available open the bale and take hand samples from the centre of the bale.

Large Bales – Randomly select 6 – 10 bales. If using a probe, take core samples 20cm – 30cm deep at waist height. If no probe is available, try to burrow into the bale to take hand samples from as far into the bale as possible.

If taking samples from Haylage, remember to re-tape/patch the bales after sampling.

If you are unable to take samples from a large number of bales, don't despair – just do what you realistically can using a few bales. The results will still give you a good indication.

If you are unsure about taking your forage samples, please email us on: healthyhorseco@btinternet.com or phone us on 07593 047181 for help and guidance

NB: If you are sending haylage for analysis which is very wet, then dry the forage carefully in a very low temperature oven first before packaging. Please do not cook the forage!

Packaging:

Next, collect all the samples from each bale together and mix together thoroughly in a clean bucket or bag. Take a sample from this large mix and fill an appropriately sized sample bag – a sealable sandwich bag will be fine. Each sample for testing must weigh 100 grams, and we will require a separate sample for each test ordered. Please do not be tempted to send samples which weigh more than 100 grams, as this means we will have to open the bag and take some out before processing which runs the risk of contaminating the sample.

Squeeze out the air from the bag(s) and seal. Using a permanent marker pen, write your full name and post code on each sample bag.

Place the samples in a large envelope and post them immediately to The Healthy Horse Company at the address above.

Results:

The analysis results will take 2 – 3 weeks to process. The results will be sent to you by email.

PLEASE NOTE WE WILL ONLY PROCESS SAMPLES FOR ANALYSIS WHERE WE HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED THE CORRECT PAYMENT IN ADVANCE FOR EACH TEST REQUIRED.