

How to Take a Forage Sample

Hay or Haylage Analysis for (Nutritional / Mineral / Hygiene) Content

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 closely 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@gmail.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!*

Please note: We will only process samples for analysis where we have already received the correct payment in advance for each test required. To avoid any additional costs due to price increases by the labs, please send your sample to us within 4 months of purchasing a forage analysis.

Packaging:

1. Collect all the samples from each bale together and mix together thoroughly in a clean bucket or bag.
2. 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 90-100 grams**, and we will require a separate sample for each test ordered (e.g. if you ordered nutritional content AND mineral content analysis tests).

Important: Please do not be tempted to send samples which weigh more than 120 grams. For biosecurity and possible contamination reasons we are unable to open the bag to remove some of the sample before processing. In the event that samples are over or under the specified weight or not in a sealed bag, we will contact you and ask you to send another sample for processing. The original sample will be destroyed.

3. Squeeze out the air from the bag(s) and seal. Using a permanent marker pen, write your *surname and post code only* on each sample bag. Please do not write any other information on the bag(s).
4. 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 ensure the email: **healthyhorseco@gmail.com** is in your list of email contacts, otherwise the results may go into your Junk Folder.