

Notes regarding taking samples from basic feeds

Purpose and scope of application:

Sampling for analysis of silage for contents (determination of the nutritional value for calculation of the ration)

1. Sampling from closed stack

For this, a sampler and a suitable sticky tape must be available to close the holes. The earliest sampling is recommended at 4-6 weeks after starting the silage for grass silage, and at 2-3 weeks for maize silage.

- a) In homogenous stacks, take one sample. Do not choose a dip to avoid rain water entering the silage. Also avoid the peripheral zones where the tarpaulins overlap, as only the top tarpaulin can be taped up. Rainwater can possibly run between the tarpaulins and get into the silage through the bottom hole.
- b) In stacks of low homogeneity (e.g. 1st and 2nd cuts were ensilaged together), take more samples, depending on the problem or work after arrangement with the client.

2. Sampling from open stack or silo

The samples can be taken from the cut edge. For this, cut the fresh cut edges with the spade. Do not use edge areas.

From silos, take the daily amount, mix and take several part samples.

3. Taking while harvesting

Grass and maize can be sampled straight away during chopping, as long as the dry matter content is higher than 28 %.

Assuming normal fermentation, the nutritional value of the fresh samples is only slightly different from the ensilaged sample. Part samples should be drawn from several feeder carts.

It is important to collect the part samples in a plastic sack and store in the shade (no change of the dry matter content on the field!).

The order form must carry the remark "fresh grass, collected during ensilaging".

4. Sub-sampling and transport

Mix the part samples in a bucket or on a tarpaulin und pack approx. 500 to 1000 g into a polythene bag and label permanently (e.g. by using a sticker or a tag) with a sequential number(.

Completely fill out an order form (best using a printed copy of the LUFA Nord-West) using the same number.

The samples should be sent to LUFA straight away and if necessary stored cool.