Notes regarding sampling commercial fertilisers

Analysis of commercial fertilisers for the nutrient values:

For requirement-oriented fertilisation, the composition of the commercial fertiliser should be known as well as possible. The nutrient content can vary greatly depending on feeding and on the water content of the product. Analyses of LUFA Nord-West showed a huge range of fluctuation. The order form lists the different sample types. If one of these sample types is ticked, the test report prints a specific average value, in order to enable a better comparison and evaluation of the analysis result.

Sampling: Slurry

The sampling must be performed very carefully, as mistakes in sampling can possibly severely falsify the analysis result. Before sampling, the slurry must be homogenised with a slurry stirrer or by pumping over. Afterwards, part samples are taken from several different points and depth of the slurry pit, collected in a bucket and, after mixing this well, $^3/_4$ litres of slurry are filled into a 1 litre plastic bottle. Suitable wide neck bottles are available at the LUFA and at the sample collection points [*).

Sampling: Stable manure and faeces

A representative sample can only be taken if several part samples are taken from several different points and depths of the of the dung / faeces heap, and are combined to a composite sample.
Using a pitch fork, the outer layers at the top, and the areas marked for sampling can be removed, so that individual samples can be taken in different depths and areas of the heap. These then form a composite sample (approx. 1 kg), which then is placed in a plastic bag for analysis.

Sample transport

The slurry and manure samples can be, if closed well, also sent by post to LUFA Nord-West or dropped off directly at the district offices of the Chamber of Agriculture Lower Saxony or the other sample collection points *) for free further transport.

You can find the sample collection service of LUFA Nord-West on our website lufa-nord-west.de under "Service".