Instructions for Obtaining and Submitting a Forage Sample

- **Sampling Instructions**
  - **Hay** – Obtain samples from approximately 10 bales. The best samples are obtained using a core sampling probe. Check with your local UT Extension office about the availability of these samplers. For square bales, take one core from one end of each bale. For round bales, take a sample from each side of the bales. If grab samples are taken, be sure to obtain a representative sample as this method may not provide reliable results.
  - **Silage or Haylage** – If haylage is in round bales, follow the same procedures as for round baled hay. If ensiled forage is chopped, then obtain 2-3 gallons of material from 5-15 places in the silo. For upright silos, run unloader and collect one sample per minute for several minutes. In both situations, mix all the collected material together, then fil ½-gallon sample bag with this mixture. Be sure to seal bag to ensure correct *"as received"* moisture determination.

- **Sample Size**
  - At least ½ gallon, or more, of sample should be submitted for forage analysis.
  - Sturdy, zip-closure type bags work well for forage samples.

- **Submission Forms and Sample Identification**
  - Completely fill out the [Forage Submission Form](#) to send with the forage sample.
  - Please print legibly.
  - Use a permanent marker to write sample and submitter information on the sample bag. Please ensure that the information on the Forage Submission Form and sample bag are the same.

- **Shipping and Payment**
  - Online payment can be made to the Soil, Plant, and Pest Center on the website https://soillab.tennessee.edu/online-payment-instructions/.
  - If paying by check, make checks for the exact amount payable to the *University of Tennessee.*
  - Please package Forage Submission Form and payment separately from the forage sample in case the sample is wet.
  - Mail all materials to: Soil, Plant, and Pest Center
    5201 Marchant Drive
    Nashville, TN 37211