

## **Forage Sampling and Testing**

We can send forage off to a Laboratory for a variety of quantitative tests. These tests vary in prices, please call the Extension Office, (406) 778- 7110, for more details. To accurately sample standing forage, sample at various locations in each field. Cut the sample at the same height the forage will be harvested at. If there is a lot of variation in field conditions you may want to sample them separately and handle the resulting hay/forage differently. Contact the Extension Office if hay is already in stacks and you need to reserve a hay probe for sampling. We suggest that you probe a hay lot in around 20 separate places, per stack or field. To sample and ship a silage sample we need to have a sample 1-4 pounds in quantity. Use an airtight container and leave room for freezing expansion. It is best to bring samples in Monday through Wednesday to ensure samples reach the lab before the weekend and are properly handled and stored until analysis can be performed.