



Agricultural Service Board *Program Guidelines*

TITLE: Forage Testing Program

ASB MOTION: 24.06

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 13, 2024

DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBLE:
Agricultural Services

NEXT REVIEW DATE: September 13, 2030

PROGRAM STATEMENT:

Lac La Biche County administers a Forage Testing Program to support farmsteads and agricultural producers in assessing the quality of forage available in pastures. Forage testing is essential due to the dynamic nature of pasture quality and the impact of selective grazing by livestock. This program is administered to support the County's need to develop agricultural initiatives and programs based on recommendations from the Agricultural Services Board.

DEFINITIONS:

“Forage Testing” refers to the process of analyzing forage for its nutrient content to provide information on its nutritional value. This testing helps formulate animal rations, ensures adequate forage quality, and supports efficient feeding practices, thereby minimizing costs and maximizing animal production.

“Nutrient Content” refers to the composition of forage in terms of its essential nutrients, which affects its ability to meet the dietary needs of livestock. Testing nutrient content is crucial for formulating effective animal rations and ensuring optimal animal health and productivity.

PRINCIPLES:

The Forage Testing Program Policy sets out Lac La Biche County's principled approach to providing a forage testing service, wherein the County will aim to:

- To support agricultural producers in the Lac La Biche County, provide Agricultural producers with nutrient content of their forage, hay, or silage to ensure quality control.
- To provide a service which otherwise could not be found locally.

PROCEDURE:

- Producers must submit their completed Schedule “A” intake form and samples to Lac La Biche County Agricultural Services from Monday-Friday by 16:00 at County Centre, located at 13422 AB-881, Lac La Biche, AB T0A 2C0.
- Producers must label samples with type of sample, legal land description, name of producer, and date sample was taken.

- Samples must be labeled correctly by the producer, so the laboratory knows what types of samples are being tested.
- Upon receiving samples that are labelled correctly Lac La Biche County staff will store samples in a refrigerated containment area until samples are shipped to the designated testing facility.
- Samples will be shipped every Friday at the County’s discretion. Submitted Forage Testing samples will be sent to the Nutrillytical, Inc. testing facility Brandon Street Southeast 3911, Calgary, Alberta T2G 4A7.
- Samples will be tested under the Pro NIR package with Nitrates. Additional testing will be at the cost of the producer.
- Upon receiving testing results the producer will be contacted, and results will be disclosed to the producer either physically or electronically.
- Forage Testing budget to be set by Council once a year.
- Once the budget limit has been reached further testing will be at cost covered by the producer.
- A Feed Probe can be provided to producers through the Lac La Biche County ASB equipment rental program.

“Original Signed”

Sterling Johnson
ASB Chairperson

September 11, 2024
Date

“Original Signed”

Manny Deol
Chief Administrative Officer

September 16, 2024
Date

“Original Signed”

Dan Gaudet
Manager

September 16, 2024
Date

SPECIAL NOTES/CROSS REFERENCE:

AMENDMENT DATE:

Schedule "A"

FORAGE TESTING INTAKE FORM

Contact Information:

Name: _____ Organization/Farm Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

of Samples Submitted: _____

Sample Types: _____

Payment Information:

Lac La Biche County will cover 100% of the costs for the first 2 samples. 50% of the costs will be covered for a 3rd and 4th sample, and any following samples the producer must pay 100% of the costs.

Payment can be made in-person at Lac La Biche County County Centre, 13422 HWY 881, Lac La Biche, AB, via debit or credit.

Consent and Authorization:

I, _____, hereby agree to the terms and conditions as set in the Forage Testing Policy and Procedure and its accompanying legislation, and authorize the County's designated testing lab to test the samples provided.

Signature of Applicant

Date

Lac La Biche County Intake Approval:

Print Name of Lac La Biche County Employee

Title

Signature

Date

