

Water Collection Guide for Livestock, Blue-Green Algae and Cyanotoxin Testing



Tip:

Collect and ship water samples to arrive by last day of work week to avoid a delay over the weekend and possible deterioration of the water quality.

Fill Out Submission Form at www.vdl.ndsu.edu/Forms

Collection Instructions:

1. Collect sample according to table below
2. Use clean plastic or amber glass container. Rinse 2-3 times with sample water before collecting sample if container isn't sterile.
3. Wear gloves.
4. Fill the container completely and tape or parafilm shut to prevent leakage.
5. Label clearly with black marker. Include name of waterbody, sampler, and date & time of collection.
6. Refrigerate until shipment on ice packs. Ship to the laboratory within 24 hours to prevent sample degradation.
7. Complete Toxicology Feed & Water Submission Form with all information requested.

Water Collection Guide

Test Requested	Preferred Volume	Sampling Location	Collection container	Shipment
Livestock Water Quality (Nitrates, TDS, pH, Sulfates)	100-250 ml	Livestock drinking location with water taken from the surface and deeper in the water column	Clean plastic	Keep sample refrigerated. Avoid overheating or freezing. Ship next-day delivery on ice-pack for cyanobacteria ID and cyanotoxin analysis.
General Contamination Screen (TOC, Ammonia, Potassium Nitrate)	100-250 ml	Area of concern	Clean plastic	
Blue-green algae/ cyanobacteria Identification	20-250 ml	Blue-green or discolored water on surface and deeper in water column. Near the sediment if animals access water near shoreline. *Not chlorinated water	Plastic or glass	
Cyanotoxins	20-250 ml	Sample blue-green or discolored water (not chlorinated water) on surface and deeper in water column. Include water near the sediment if in an area where animals enter to drink water in a pond/lake.	Amber glass Contact NDSU-VDL for containers	

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