

## Water Quality Analysis and Blue-Green Algae Collection Guide

- **Collection of Water Sample:** Collect a minimum of 50 mL of the sample (250 mL preferred) in a plastic container. Sample water where cattle drink, especially for blue-green algae. Take the water sample in the blue-green bloom and wear gloves.
  - If collecting in a plastic bottled water container, rinse out container in the sample water, take a surface water sample and a sample deeper in the water column. Label sample with an ID using a black marker. Seal tightly and wrap the top with tape to prevent leaking. Place the water in a sealed plastic bag.
  - Tip: Collect the sample early in the week and send in before Friday to avoid delay due to weekend shipment hold up.
- **Water Quality Analysis Storage:** The sample may be stored in the fridge, but an ice pack during shipping is not required.
- No time restrictions on sample viability, but typically water should be analyzed within a few days.
  - If producers would like additional tests, contact the laboratory to be analyzing the sample for any special conditions for handling/time.
  - **NOTE: If time is a factor, send by courier overnight. If the sample is received before 10 - 10:30 AM, the report is generally sent out by 5 PM. The time delay is generally shipment.**
- **Blue-Green Algae (Cyanobacteria) Storage:** Ship immediately on an ice pack by next day delivery. Do not freeze sample or leave on the dash of your vehicle (avoid temperature extremes).
- Fill out the [VDL general submission form](#). Include owner info, phone number, and email or fax number for quick response with a report. Be sure to mark "water sample" box on form with number of samples submitted and write in the "Special Request" or "History" area **WATER SCREEN** and/or **BLUE GREEN ALGAE**.
- Analysis of water for animal and livestock consumption only. Analysis of water for human consumption must be performed by a laboratory certified by the [North Dakota Department of Health](#).

Please contact the laboratory with any questions at 701-231-8307  
or visit [www.vdl.ndsu.edu](http://www.vdl.ndsu.edu).

**Post Office Mail Address:**  
Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory  
NDSU, Dept. 7691  
PO Box 6050  
Fargo, ND 58108-6050

**UPS/Fed Ex Address:**  
Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory  
4035 19<sup>th</sup> Ave N  
Fargo, ND 58102

**VETERINARY DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY**  
NDSU Dept 7691 | PO Box 6050 | Fargo ND 58108-6050  
701.231.8307 | [ndsu.vetlab@ndsu.edu](mailto:ndsu.vetlab@ndsu.edu) | [www.vdl.ndsu.edu](http://www.vdl.ndsu.edu)

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