



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

### Water Sample Collection:

- Collect a minimum of 50 mL of the sample (250 mL preferred) in a plastic container. Sample water from where the cattle drink, especially for blue-green algae. Take the water sample in the blue-green bloom and wear gloves.
- If collecting the sample in a plastic bottled water container, rinse out the 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 container in a sealable plastic bag.
- Tip: Collect the sample early in the week and submit the sample 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 shipment is not required.
- No time restrictions on sample viability, but typically water should be analyzed within a few days of collection.
- If producers would like additional tests, contact the laboratory for any special conditions for handling/time.
- Note: If time is a factor, send the sample by courier overnight. If the sample is received before 10:30 AM, the report is generally available by 5 PM. Time delay is typically due to delays in shipment.

### Blue-Green Algae (*Cyanobacteria*) Storage:

- Ship the sample immediately on an ice pack by next-day delivery. Avoid temperature extremes- do not freeze the sample or leave it on the dash of your vehicle.

### Fill out the Toxicology Submission Form:

- Include owner information, phone number, and email for quick response with a report. Be sure to mark which tests are requested; include the sample IDs and number of samples submitted in the appropriate fields.

*Analysis of water for animal and livestock consumption only. For analysis of water for human consumption, please contact the [North Dakota Department of Health](#).*