

# FIELD CORN SAMPLING

(Sample stalk according to how sample will be baled)

To be of value, the sample sent to the laboratory must be representative of what cattle will consume.

- Collect 8 to 10 stalks per field. Collected stalks should accurately represent all areas of the field.
- Start at one corner of the field and work your way across the field in a zig-zag pattern, covering the field and collecting stalks that are representative.
- Do not allow stalks to touch the soil once collected.
- Grind or chop the entire stalk including foliage, if present, to make a representative “lot” sample of the field.
- From the “lot” sample take a sub-sample (small quantity that is representative of the “lot”), make sure that foliage, if present, are represented in this sub-sample. This sub-sample should be approximately two (2) lbs.
- Send sub-sample in a grocery paper bag instead of a plastic bag. Paper bags minimize mold growth during shipment and facilitate additional drying.
- Ship or deliver the sub-sample(s) on the day of collection.
- Speed in getting the sample to the laboratory will help to insure accuracy of analysis.

## CAUTION

Bales that include ears of corn have the potential for growth of aflatoxin. Farmers with bales containing ears of corn should watch for symptoms of aflatoxin poisoning. High concentrations of aflatoxin can lead to acute liver disease or death for livestock within 72 hours. Lower concentrations have shown various symptoms, such as feed refusal, decreased feed efficiency, impaired reproduction, hemorrhaging in muscles and suppression of the immune system. Proper storage and protection should be exercised.