



**Rock River
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agricultural analysis

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Apparent Total Tract Starch Digestibility Sampling Protocol

* It is best to sample 10 cows in a group consuming the same ration for a period of two weeks. Cows should be 90 to 150 days in milk. (Ferguson)

1. Feces should be scooped from the rectum, a good handful for each cow (about 8 ounces).
2. Sample 10 fresh stools per pen.
3. Mix feces well from all cows in a bucket.
4. Place about 8 ounces of the composite feces in the provided Rock River Laboratory container.
5. Label the sample with:
 - Dealer Name
 - Farmer Name
 - Sample ID
6. Store in freezer if not delivered to lab immediately.
7. Make sure to fill out the Manure Analysis Request Form included in the container box.

* Ideally, it would be best to sample cows several days in a row, at advancing times each day (2 hours later each day, twice a day) and composite feces for analysis over the entire time period. Often this is not possible unless the farm manager can take samples over several days and refrigerate them. (Ferguson)