

**Agronomic Manure Sampling Tips:** Proper sampling is critical to accurately reflect the true nutrient content of the manure. Obtaining the correct information means that fertilizer recs can be adjusted appropriately. Place liquid or solid samples in a Rock River Lab-provided plastic jar filled to 3/4 capacity. Solid manure samples should also be placed in Rock River Lab-provided manure jar. Mail early in the week and avoid mailing over holidays or weekends. Use manure analysis and manure storage volumes to determine manure production whenever possible. A few samples taken every year and reviewed over time will provide better nutrient information to the producer than book values.

**Liquid Manure Systems:** Thoroughly agitate contents of storage facility. If the material is to be hauled immediately, a composite sample taken from several loads (5-10) is recommended. These subsamples should be thoroughly mixed together and submitted as one sample. A container on the end of a long pole works well to sample manure being pumped into the top of the spreader tank.

**Solid Manure Systems:** Use a push-probe, auger, or spade to obtain a representative sample from several places in the manure pile or pack. If the material is being loaded for spreading, a sample can be obtained by subsampling several spreader loads. Manure sampling for liquid systems is more accurate than the average book values.

### **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 - 150 days in milk (Ferguson)

- Feces should be scooped from the rectum, about one handful for each cow (approximately 8 ounces)
- Sample 10 fresh stools per pen
- Mix feces from all cows in a bucket
- Place approximately 8 ounces of the composite feces into plastic, Rock River Lab-provided sample jar
- Store in freezer if not delivered to lab immediately

\*Ideally, it would be best to sample feces over several days, at advancing times each day (twice a day, two hours later each 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)