



Nottinghamshire
County Council

Business Information

Food and Animal Feedstuffs Sampling Policy

Purpose

- To set out our general approach to food and animal feedstuffs sampling, and our approach in specific situations.
- To ensure that our obligations under the Framework Agreement on Local Authority Food Law Enforcement are met.

Responsibility

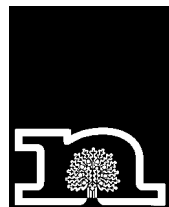
The Assistant Director (Community Protection) has overall responsibility for ensuring that this policy is adhered to.

Our Policy

- 1 Samples are taken to ensure that food complies with the relevant legislation as regards composition, quality, adulteration, misleading claims and general labelling issues. It is our policy to take samples informally except when follow-up samples cannot be readily repeated or if they are taken as a result of a complaint, previous failures, or to test advice already given.
- 2 All samples will be procured in accordance with relevant Codes of Practice made under the Food Safety Act 1990, the Feeding Stuffs (Sampling and Analysis) Regulations, project protocols and relevant Trading Standards service documented procedures.
- 3 Samples may be formal or informal as appropriate.
- 4 Our sampling programme will be documented.
- 5 This policy is made available to all relevant business stakeholders and consumers.
- 6 This policy will be subject to an annual review.

Food

- 7 Food samples will be procured in Nottinghamshire in accordance with our business plan and sampling programme requirements. The areas for food samples to be sourced are:
 - (a) Food Manufacturer/Packer/Wholesaler/Importer - authorised officers will procure samples of ingredients, part produced products and final products as part of food standards inspections.



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- (b) Retailers - authorised officers will procure samples of food suspected of not complying with legislation at any appropriate time.
- (c) Projects - we will participate in food sampling projects which are co-ordinated locally, regionally, by Food Standards Agency (FSA) or Local Authorities Co-ordinators of Regulatory Services (LACORS). Samples will be procured as per the protocol for each individual project.
- (d) Home Authority Businesses - samples will be procured of:
 - (i) product produced or imported
 - (ii) directly competitive products to maintain a level playing field
- (e) Complaints - follow-up samples of complaints will be procured as appropriate.

All samples will be submitted to the appointed public analyst.

Animal Feedstuffs

- 8 Animal feedstuff samples will be procured in Nottinghamshire in accordance with our business plan and operational requirements. The areas for animal feedstuff samples to be sourced are:
- (a) Feedstuff Manufacturers - samples will normally be procured formally as part of an agricultural standards inspection.
 - (b) Feed Materials - samples will be taken informally in the first instance as part of an agricultural standards inspection. In any case where such a sample is reported to be unsatisfactory a follow-up formal sample will be taken.
 - (c) On-Farm Mixers/On-Farm Purchases on inspection - informal samples should be taken by agreement with the farmer. In any case where such a sample is reported to be unsatisfactory a follow-up formal sample will be taken.
 - (d) Complaints - in the case of compound feeds or feed materials purchased, these will be sampled formally except where the complaint relates to a feed being unwholesome or dangerous when the whole of the materials may form the sample.
 - (e) Requests by purchasers for samples to be taken under Section 75 of the Agriculture Act 1970. These will be taken formally in accordance with the relevant regulations.

Fertilisers

- 9 Fertiliser samples will be procured in Nottinghamshire in accordance with our business plan and operational requirements. The areas for fertiliser samples to be procured are:
- (a) Fertiliser Manufacturers - samples will be formally procured in most cases as part of an inspection.
 - (b) On-Farm Purchases on inspection - informal samples should normally be taken. In any case where such a sample is reported to be unsatisfactory a follow-up formal sample will be taken.
 - (c) Complaints - in the case of fertilisers purchased, these will be sampled formally.
 - (d) Requests by purchasers for samples to be taken under Section 75 of the Agriculture Act 1970. These will be taken formally in accordance with the relevant regulations.