INSTRUCTIONS FOR COLLECTING AND SUBMITTING FORAGE SAMPLES TO THE NIR DIGESTIBILITY STUDY

1. **Sample Purity:** The objective of this study is to develop NIR calibrations that can accurately predict the digestibility and energy of southern grown forages and hopefully differentiate between more digestible varieties within a particular species. Therefore, when sampling fields containing a single species or variety, avoid areas or bales that contain multiple species, other varieties, or significant weeds.

2. **Sample Size:** These samples will be analyzed by several different methods at multiple laboratories so adequate sample is needed for transferring calibrations among NIR instruments. Therefore, sample size is critical. Fill a gallon plastic bag.

3. **Dry vs. Fresh Hay:** Either cured hay or fresh samples can be submitted. However, if submitting fresh uncured hay, this must be done in a timely way such that fermentation or molding does not occur.

4. **Information:** Make sure that you complete the form titled “Improving the Accuracy and Applicability of Forage Testing in Georgia A Project to Develop NIRS Digestibility Equations for Warm Season Forages”.

5. **Routine Forage Report:** If you want a routine forage testing report, you must also complete the form titled “Feed and Forage Testing Application Form”. Remember under our current TDN and energy equations, you must provide the type of animal to be fed, beef cattle, dairy cattle, horses, sheep, or goats.

6. **Analysis Cost:** Due to recent budget cuts we must charge the full fee for NIR plus nitrate analysis, $10.00 per sample. Please include payment with the samples (make checks payable to FEW Lab).

7. **Ship to:** AESL-Feed & Environmental Water Lab 2300 College Station Road Athens, GA 30605