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Microwave Method

Equipment Needed:
1. Microwave Oven with turntable
2. Microwave-Safe Plate: 7-9” diameter. Caution - Do not use paper plate, they may burn.
3. Gram Scale: Capacity of at least 500 grams, accuracy at least 1.0 gram. Gram scales can be purchased from agricultural supply companies, drug and hardware stores.
4. Cup of Water: Be sure container is microwave-safe. This will help prevent the sample from burning when the sample is nearly dry.

Procedure
1. Weigh the empty plate & record weight
2. Place about 100 grams of chopped forage or cracked/ground grain on plate and record plate + sample weight
3. Place in microwave for approximately 4 minutes. Set microwave on high setting.
4. After 4 minutes record plate + sample weight
5. Place back in microwave for another 2 minutes
6. Again, record plate + sample weight
7. Repeat step # 5 until plate + sample weight remains unchanged (+/- 1 gram). Sample is now completely dried.
8. Subtract the plate weight from the plate+sample weight.

Example of Arithmetic Calculations
1. Empty Plate weighted = 200 grams
2. Forage or grain sample + plate weighs = 300 grams  
   Sample weighted 100 grams  
   [300 grams (plate + sample) - 200 gram (empty plate)]
3. Completely dried plate + sample weighs = 250 grams.
4. % Dry Matter =  
   [250 grams (completely dried sample) - 200 grams (empty plate)] = 50 grams
   50 grams ÷ 100 grams = 0.5 X 100 = 50% Dry Matter.

Moisture Tester  