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## April 2010 Service Bulletin

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### Soil Fertility & Nutrient Management:

With average yields increasing, and the reduction of applied fertilizer, many fields are showing a downward trend in fertility levels. The percentage of farms maintaining soil test values of phosphorus at or above 20 ppm, and potassium greater than 120 ppm is decreasing. Managing nutrients can be simplified by the following equation:

$$\text{Demand} - \text{Supply} = \text{Need}$$

Demand is calculated by multiplying a realistic yield goal by the crop removal factor.

Supply is the sum of all available nutrients, such as soil fertility and manure.

Need is the difference, which is the amount of additional nutrient required.

Only by testing your soil and manure can you accurately determine the nutrient supply. Using average manure values or soil test data which is older than three years may lead to fertilizer application that either limits yield, or becomes uneconomical due to over-application.

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### Growing Degree Day Calculator:



#### Growing Degree Days

Heading into April, dormancy break has already occurred; as we have had more than 5 consecutive days exceeding 5 degrees C in early March. We will once again track GDD accumulation, available on our website at [www.agtest.com](http://www.agtest.com)

Keeping track of GDD and estimating forage amounts and resulting nutritional values will help you assess the best cutting time.

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### Forage Update 2010:



**Wednesday, May 5, 2010**

7:30 am to 11:00 am

Quality Hotel & Suites, 580 Bruin Blvd., Woodstock, ON

This year's speakers are:

- Brain Sloan – Director of Ruminant Business, Adisseo
- Bill Mahana – Pioneer HiBred International
- Jack Legg – Agronomy & Sales, Agri-Food Laboratories
- Ron Piett – Feed & Forage Manager, Agri-Food Laboratories

Breakfast will be served at 7:30am, The speaker program will begin at 8:00am.  
For more information please contact Amy [astrachan@agtest.com](mailto:astrachan@agtest.com) or 800-265-7175  
Please RSVP to: [rsvp@agtest.com](mailto:rsvp@agtest.com) by **April 23, 2010** if you plan on attending!