

## July 2010 Service Bulletin

### Nematodes:

Soil sampling for full nematode or soybean cyst nematode testing, is similar to soil fertility sampling. Extract subsamples from a random and representative area to a minimum 6 inch depth and mix well together to comprise the final sample. If not submitting to the laboratory immediately, keep the samples cool.

When sampling for the presence of nematodes, a maximum of 25 acres per sample is recommended.

If sampling a symptomatic or suspected 'hotspot', avoid the temptation to sample the centre of this area and instead extract the subsamples from the periphery. The centre will be lower in numbers as the food source has been depleted.

Please submit SCN and nematode samples in their own boxes, as opposed to adding the nematode tests as an option to a fertility test.



### Post-Wheat Harvest:

Wheat is expected to be harvested early this year, perhaps by as much as 2 weeks sooner than usual. With recent wet weather, fusarium development may be a risk in many areas. Agri-Food Laboratories provides toxin testing for your convenience.

Some growers will be tempted to try double cropping soybeans, but should remain cognizant of the risks:

- Double-cropped soybeans will not be insurable
- Crop rotation, fertility and herbicide programs may be impacted
- 30 bushel yield potential planted on July 1<sup>st</sup> drops by 1 bu/day for each day planted thereafter

When planting double-cropped soybeans, use narrow rows and high populations to quickly establish canopy.



For producers not attempting to double crop, early wheat harvest allows plenty of opportunity to extract soil samples for testing before manure application and/or tillage. Testing manure as well as the soil allows for better management of applied nutrients. Using average manure values may not reflect your actual on farm manure.

As soil testing is recommended every three years, establishing a sampling strategy after wheat for a typical corn-soy-wheat rotation is a sound fertility management decision.

---

## Forage Harvest:

The majority of forage samples received at Agri-Food Laboratories for analysis, have produced results that indicate very good quality and consistency as reported in the June bulletin. These samples originate from areas that were harvested between May 15<sup>th</sup> and May 31<sup>st</sup>.

Many areas in Ontario received rain on eight of the first sixteen days in June which damaged the forage already cut and rendered many fields too wet to access. Hay still standing continued to mature and only recently conditions have improved allowing the continuation of harvest.

Most of these samples represent dry hay. The results from these samples have been low in crude protein content, high in fibres and lignin, and low in minerals. The average results for mixed hay samples are as follows:

Dry Matter	85%
Protein	12%
ADF	36%
NDF	56%
Lignin	9%

Areas that had been harvested in May are currently being harvested again due to the exceptional rate of regrowth. Many have elected to harvest direct seeding and second cut at the same time. The expectation for these crops, provided that the current dry weather remains, is that the quality will be high.



---

## Business Update:

Agri-Food Laboratories' focus remains as meeting and exceeding the analytical requirements of our clients. Our goal is to ensure that the highest standard of reliability, consistency and service delivery is accomplished. To that end we have looked into our internal processes and expenses to ensure we keep our services to an optimal value for you and your clients. We have increased our prices on a few select packages only due to market conditions. Hopefully you have received a copy of the price list with your most recent invoice. A PDF version has been posted to our website for your reference. Please contact Melisa at the lab if you have any questions on your custom pricing.

We hope you have found our modernized website to be an excellent way to access information, our services, and various report export formats. Check it out at [www.agtest.com](http://www.agtest.com). You can now access your submission forms, analytical reports and mapping data with fewer clicks.

