

May 2010 Service Bulletin

Pre-Sidedress Nitrate Soil Test (PSNT):

With the early spring and mild weather, many corn producers are wondering if there will be more residual nitrate-nitrogen available for the corn crop. It is possible that more nitrate-nitrogen has mineralized this spring, but it is best to confirm with a PSNT.

Sampling soil between the corn rows at a 12" depth, as close to sidedress time as possible (3-5 leaf stage) provides a recommended sidedress N rate.

Agri-Food Laboratories encourages a Zone Management approach to PSNT sampling, dividing samples into areas of differing soil type and/or topography, such as a high and low strategy.



Rapid Scissor Cut Evaluation:

An early mild spring has encouraged a great deal of activity and has many wondering about the status of their forages for this year's harvest.

Agri-Food Laboratories will continue to track heat accumulation through growing degree days which can be found on our website. We have begun sampling and analysis of scissor cut clippings as well. The results will be available on the website.

For those who wish to evaluate their own stands as harvest approaches, a rapid scissor cut analysis is available from the laboratory, with results available the next day.

Management Decisions After 1st Cut Forage Harvest:

After the first cut of forage has been harvested, there is a window of opportunity to test the soil which can help guide future nutrient management decisions:



- Soil sampling the field will provide recommendations to meet the fertility needs of the forage crop, especially for potash as it is removed in large quantities. A 5 ton alfalfa yield will remove over 300 lbs of potash per acre annually; without replacement, it would lower a soil test value by 18 ppm.

- Manure testing provides analysis of nutrients in your manure, and reports the results in pounds of nutrient per 1000 gallons or per ton applied. Testing the manure, as opposed to using average values for a particular livestock class, allows more accurate management of application rates and potential reductions in commercial fertilizer.