



Deep Soil Sampling 50% Cost Share Program for the Bazile Groundwater Management Area

Lewis & Clark Natural Resources District (LCNRD) Groundwater Quality Rules and Regulations require deep soil testing annually on acres planted to corn. Cost share of 50% of the actual cost on up to 640 acres is available to producers in the LCNRD portion of the Bazile Groundwater Management Area (BGMA). The use of deep soil sampling for determining appropriate nitrogen application rates has been proven to reduce the potential of nitrogen over-application and/or leaching of nitrogen into the groundwater.

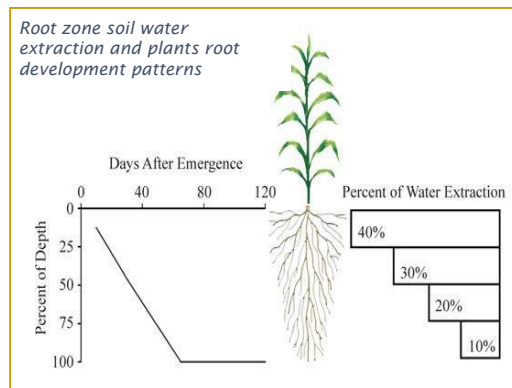
Soil samples representative of each field or 40-acre portion of each field, are necessary to determine the average nutrient content and degree of variability in a field. Fertilizer use based on accurate information about soil fertility levels in fields, can result in increased crop yield, reduced cost and minimized environmental impact. Knowing a fields' nutrient status variability means fertilizer application can be adjusted to meet the supplemental nutrient needs of a crop for specified field areas.

The LCNRD deep soil sampling program requirements are based on University of Nebraska Lincoln Neb Guide G1740; Guidelines for Soil Sampling and requires three soil core samples from: 0-8", 8-24", and 24-36" sampling depths. One core sample per field, maximum of 40 acres. Obtaining samples at three different depths is required as nitrate nitrogen concentration in the subsoil can vary with depth just as it would with seasons of the year. Pounds of nitrogen from each sample are determined and from that an estimate can be made on nitrogen available in the root zone (6 feet). The best time to conduct soil sampling is in the spring as soil type and rainfall affect nitrogen available.

In the fall or spring, line up a crop consultant to complete field sampling and send them off to a certified lab. In order to make accurate fertilizer recommendations the crop consultant will need access to your cropping history, the planned crop, nitrate results from deep soil testing, nitrate content in irrigation water (when applicable) and manure application information (if applicable). After testing is complete furnish copies of the recommendations, annual reports from the previous year, and invoices to receive 50% reimbursement of actual charges.

REQUIREMENTS FOR COST SHARE

- Maximum of 640 acres, minimum of 10 acres
- Pre-approval is not required however an application must be provided
- Eligible components for 50% cost share
 - Soil Sampling/Collection
 - Basic Soil Nitrates Test for 0-8", 8-24", 24-36"
- Recommended nitrogen fertilizer application rates must not exceed UNL recommended rates to receive payment
- Aerial photos with fields marked, may be requested for clarification of fields sampled if they are not provided
- Payment will be issued upon receipt of the following: fully completed annual reports on LCNRD forms, deep soil test results from lab, nitrogen application recommendations from your crop consultant that do not exceed UNL recommended rates, and invoices for deep soil testing.
- Deadline for work to be completed is prior to application of nitrogen.



**DEEP SOIL SAMPLING IS REQUIRED ON ALL ACRES PLANTED TO CORN IN THE BGMA
REGARDLESS OF PARTICPATION IN THE DEEP SOIL SAMPLING PROGRAM.**

For Further Information Contact:

- Lewis and Clark Natural Resources District, PO Box 518, Hartington NE 68739, Ph 402-254-6758,
- Natural Resources Conservation Service, PO Box 300, Bloomfield NE 68718, Ph: 402-373-4914 Ext 3.

See reverse for cost share form