

2013 SOIL HEALTH ASSESSMENT SAMPLING PLAN of OPERATIONS

Field Office Staff:

Key points to consider as you schedule a Soil Health Assessment

- Contact Karen Dudley to schedule dates for soil sampling, or sample yourself if you have had training.
- Please line up several landowners to sample when Karen schedules your appointment.
- Each soil health assessment requires a split sample:



- 1 sample to Cornell for overall soil health (6 cups soil)
- 1 sample to UNH for nutrient recommendations¹ (1 cup)



Producer:

- Prior to sampling you must purchase 2 stamped USPS priority mail flat rate boxes and provide to NRCS. You pay for shipping, but NRCS staff can send the samples for you.

USPS Box Specs:

- MUST be a "**Flat-rate**" priority mail box, not a regular priority mail box. Must be stamped.

No. of Tests	Box Size: Cornell	Box Cost (\$)	Box Size: UNH	Box Cost (\$)
1	Medium	12.35	Small	5.80
2	Medium	12.35	Small	5.80
3	Large	16.85	Small	5.80
4	Large	16.85	Medium	12.35
5	Large	16.85	Medium	12.35

Sampling

- NRCS can help fill out the submission forms for both tests

Cropping System	Cornell Test	Cost (\$)	UNH Test	Cost (\$)
Corn, Forage & Pasture	Standard ²	75	Corn, Forage, (CF1 & CF4)	18
Field Vegetables	Standard	75	Vegetables (V1 & V4)	18
Fruits (Field/Orchard)	Standard	75	Fruit (F1 & F4)	18
All High Tunnel Crops	Standard + Salts	82.50	New Tunnel (HT1 & HT4)	23



¹If a soil test w/micronutrients was taken in the last 6 months then sending a test to UNH is not required

²The root bioassay in the standard package does not always apply to forage crops, but the Potentially Mineralizable Nitrogen information is valuable, therefore the selection of the "standard" test package is required for field crops.

- NH-NRCS will allow up to 5 CSHAs in year 1 and 5 in year 3 (e.g.. It's highly recommended that producers re-test 2 years after the first test, to better understand how management decisions impact soil health over time.
- Soil Health Assessments are encouraged on pasture, cropland and hayland as well as high tunnels.
- Make a check out to “Cornell Univ.” and “UNH Cooperative Extension” for the appropriate amount.

Example Costs	No. of Tests				
	1	2	3	4	5
Field Crops					
Cornell	\$75	\$150	\$225	\$300	\$375
UNH	\$18	\$36	\$54	\$72	\$90
High Tunnels					
Cornell	\$82.50	\$165	\$247.50	\$330	\$412.50
UNH	\$18	\$36	\$54	\$72	\$90

Interpretation and Delivery of the Soil Health Assessment Results:

- Results will be emailed to producers, field office representative, and to Brandon Smith.
- Field office staff will help the producer interpret results using the template report and management table from the “Interpreting Soil Health Assessments in NH-590 Quick Reference”. Field staff will identify short and long-term practices needed to address soil health constraints and update the conservation plan.
- Nutrient recommendations will be provided in a separate report by UNH as should be used to develop a nutrient management plan that addresses any nitrogen or phosphorus risk.
- Assistance to interpret complex or challenging results is available from Brandon.
- The Cornell Soil Health Assessment Manual can be found online at <http://soilhealth.cals.cornell.edu/extension/manual.htm>

