

Information to Have When Delivering Samples

Please have the following information when delivering your sample to the Huron Conservation Nitrate Test Lab.

- Depth of sample taken (inches)
 - AC/Sample
 - Crop being grown
 - Yield goal
 - Previous crop
 - Cover crop
 - If Nitrogen was broadcast this year, how many (actual) lbs per acre were applied?
- If manure was applied at some time during the past 3 years...*
- Livestock type(s)
 - Amount applied? (tons or gals/acre)
 - Date(s) of application (month/year)

Nitrate Test Lab

Bring soil samples to the Huron Conservation District office, located at 1460 South Van Dyke, just west of Bad Axe.

The cost per sample is \$7.25.

Turn-around times:

<i>Sample Delivered</i>	<i>Test Results Available</i>
Monday-Thursday (before 3:00 pm)	Following day (by 1:00 pm)
Friday	Monday

1460 S. Van Dyke
Bad Axe, MI 48413
989-269-9540, ext 3
greg.renn@mi.nacdnet.net
www.huroncd.org



HURON CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Nitrate Soil Testing



Nitrate Testing

Nitrate testing determines the available nitrogen (N) in soil before side-dressing.



The **Pre-Sidedress Nitrate Test** (PSNT) helps determine how much N is available in the soil.

- Soil microorganisms continually feed on organic matter and crop residues in the soil. Nitrogen is released during this process and becomes available to plants.

When fertilizer is applied, excess N may increase nitrate contamination of groundwater.

Excess nitrogen can be measured and used as a credit against the total N requirement of the crop, thereby providing a cost savings in fertilizer use.

**COST OF SOIL TEST:
\$7.25 per sample**



Test Your Soil When / Where / How

- Take soil samples in June (or just prior to sidedress), after the soil has warmed.
- Sample fields where corn or sugar beets will be planted.
- Avoid taking probes from hilltops and/or low spots.
- Sample different soil types separately.
- *Each sample* will include several probes, taken from an area no greater than 20-acres.
- Take 1 probe per acre (no more than 15-20 separate probes from a 20-acre area).
- Take each probe from an approximate 10-12" soil depth.
- Mix the individual probes together in a plastic bucket and place approximately **1 pint of this mixture** in a labeled **paper bag**.
- **DO NOT USE PLASTIC BAGS** for soil samples.

Cost Benefit and Savings

In 2017, participants in Huron and surrounding counties saved an average of **\$34.41** per acre using PSNT.

2017 SAVINGS - HURON DISTRICT

Overall Savings to Participants =

\$1,202,548

1417 Samples Analyzed

Average N Credit per Acre = 93 lbs

(using average cost of three major sources of nitrogen)

Per Acre Savings = \$36.18

Accurate Soil Sampling

To obtain a good representative soil sample:

1. Identify sampling locations.
2. Use appropriate sampling method.
3. Use the right tools.
4. Sample at the right time.
5. Handle samples with appropriate care.