

The Field Report

NDSU Soil Testing Lab

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Visit our website!

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Lab Updates:

Soil Test Reporting Changes

Reports are now automatically emailed if there is a valid email address included in the biographical data.

Please write a current email address on the soil information sheet so that we can update our records.

If an email address is on file hard copies will no longer be sent unless specifically requested. Just give us a call or send an email to:

NDSU.STL@ndsu.edu
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Larry Swenson Retiring in the Future.

Larry Swenson began working in the Soil Testing Lab in 1964. Throughout his time at the lab he has seen many transitions. After working 46 years Larry has decided to retire from the Soil Testing Lab. After his official retirement takes place in the near future, Larry will remain on staff on a part-time basis. A search will then take place to find a highly qualified successor as manager. Larry will

help the new manager transition into the soil testing lab as well as be available to answer any questions our customers might have. We wish Larry well on the next chapter of his life!

Important Accounting Change:

NDSU will be assessing a late fee of 1.75% on all accounts including those charges from the Soil Testing Lab.

Corporate account balances more than 30 days past due will be assessed a late payment fee on the last day of each month. Fees for individual accounts will be assessed on the 15th day of each month.

These late fees will be reflected in the statement you receive from NDSU's Customer Account Services

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call Kristin at 701-231-9465 or Customer Account Services at 701-231-8782 or toll free at 800-742-4019

Don't forget we will test your lawn and garden samples! Your report will contain nutrient levels and a recommendation tailored to your specific needs.

New North Dakota Spring Wheat and Durum Nitrogen Rate Recommendations

Dave Franzen, NDSU Soil Science Extension Specialist

On December 1, 2009, the new North Dakota spring wheat and durum nitrogen rate recommendations were unveiled. The new rates are the product of research in North Dakota since 1970. Archived data represents about half of the data and field research from 2005-2008 represents the other half of over 100 site-years of N rate studies. The state is divided into three recommendations- Eastern North Dakota, Western North Dakota and the Langdon region. Fields and parts of fields (in fields managed using site-specific technologies) are categorized as low, medium or high productivity. The recommendations discourage growers from yield prediction. Growers are required to look at their yield history to choose a productivity category.

The grower can use the new Spring Wheat and Durum Fertility circular SF-712 available from NDSU Extension publications on the web, or from my web pages and choose the appropriate table to look up rates.

The grower chooses the expected wheat price and the N cost from the table, which results in an N rate. The table rate will not always result in maximum yield, but it will provide maximum grower profit.

Soil test nitrate is then subtracted along with previous crop N credits. Through the data analysis, I found that plots in long-term no-till required less N than conventional till plots. Therefore, there is a 50 lb N/acre credit for long-term no-till. Due to extra N required during the first 5 no-till years, a 20 lb/acre addition is included in short-term no-till fields.

Although organic matter up to 5.9% was important in defining relative productivity within a field, there was no need for an organic matter N credit. For fields 6% organic matter or greater there is a 50 lb N/acre credit for each full percentage organic matter greater than 5%.

The grower is left with an N rate. However, this N rate is not the final N rate. There are other considerations before a final decision on rate is made; protein characteristics of the intended variety, less than optimal N application methods, excessive straw from the previous season, soils with denitrification issues, and grower experiences and common sense.

An easy method of determining rate is through the new North Dakota Nitrogen Wheat Calculator, available on my web page at <http://www.soilsci.ndsu.nodak.edu/wheat/index.html> or on the Soil Testing Lab website.

Growers can easily go through the process in less than a minute.

The new recommendations are heavily research based, economics based, with logical considerations for tillage system, previous crop and residual soil nitrates. The growers are also being credited for common sense in making any additional adjustments to the preliminary value. Use of these recommendations should help avoid protein disasters as experienced by many growers in 2009.

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Technical Support for the New North Dakota Wheat Calculator

The lab has updated the soil test reports to reflect the changes made by Dr. Dave Franzen. When a recommendation for any variety of wheat is given, the phosphorous and potassium fertilizer recommendations are still shown, however there is no longer a nitrogen recommendation generated by our system. You will notice at the bottom of the report there will be the address to access the wheat nitrogen calculator on the Soil Testing Lab website. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call the lab where we can assist you in using the nitrogen calculator.



“Growers can easily go through the process in less than a minute.”

Dave Franzen

“The Field Report”

Editor:
Kristin Newman