



Laboratories, Inc.

Duane Schlieman, Agronomy Services

New Ulm, MN    Nevada, IA    Bismarck, ND

MVTL Newsletter

Sept. 2009

## Rolling Into The Fall ... 2009

### Stalk Nitrates & Nematodes

**Increased capacity:** As we move closer to the fall soil sampling season, it seems to be a good time to review things at the MVTL soils lab. First, MVTL is adding more equipment and this should increase our capacity this fall. Assuming normal sampling conditions, we will be running Monday-Saturday throughout the month of October.

**Soil Processing:** As we've discussed at length over the past few seasons, MVTL will continue to utilize the 2-day drying process. Data quality and consistency are critical and very important for all of us. We have spent a lot of time and energy to improve and the continued growth has made it worth while. Turn-around times are important for obvious reasons, but that urgency has certainly taken a back seat to improved planning and proper analysis. Special circumstances will still drive the need for speed, therefore, traditional drying ("Rush") remains available on your request.

**Cornstalk Nitrate Test:** This test was designed to help monitor the relationship between stalk nitrate concentrations and final yield, and ultimately, improve nitrogen management. The levels are reported in **ppm** and bracketed accordingly:

<250 = Very Low

250-750 = Marginal

750-2000 = Optimum

>2000 = Excessive.

While many N-rates have been reduced over the past few years, our mineralizable-N pool may be diminishing at the same time. With variability in rainfall, drainage systems, and soil-types, we can assume some significant differences in the final yields at harvest. The stalk nitrate & deep soil nitrate tests are tools that can help determine your N-use efficiency. We have **bags** for collecting the stalks, so call us ahead if you need some sent out. <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/PM1584.pdf>

**Soil Probes, Labels, etc...** We have soil probes on hand and other routine supplies ... let us know what you need! Contacting the Soil Lab @ 507-233-7147.



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## Fertility Trends & Supplies

### Safety First

The 2009 summer grid season at MVTL continues play into a lower data shift for potassium levels compared to 2008 and prior. We've previously noted some long-term shifting that might occur with more natural air-drying samples, but soil moisture shortages by area and some cutbacks in fertilizer applications appear to be having some short-term impact. Olsen P shows a similar shift, but most all other analyses appear to be on par. We will provide a complete nutrient summary once fall is complete.

### **Soybean Cyst Nematodes – LeAnn Frydrych**

Testing your fields for Soybean Cyst Nematodes is an important management strategy. Early detection is beneficial to you in many ways. It allows you to plant resistant varieties or a non-host crop the following year, which will help keep or decrease the number of SCN you have in your field. It is much easier to keep low numbers low rather than trying to get your high numbers to be low numbers.

The best time to pull soil cores for SCN testing is as close to harvest as possible. Nematodes grow on the roots of soybean plants and we assume numbers tend to increase throughout the season, therefore, you want to fall sample within the row, rather than between the rows. Each soil sample you submit for analysis should contain 10-15 soil cores and represent a 10 acre area. Samples should be limited to a 10 acre area in order to get a good representation of your field. Key areas of the field you should test for SCN are in your field entryways ... equipment contamination is one of the top ways your field gets infested with SCN to start with. Secondly, lower lying areas in your field are also a key area to test.

To keep your SNC count as low as possible, take soil samples, rotate your crops, and plant resistant variety soybeans. MVTL continues to utilize standard methods to help achieve consistent egg counts with UM-Waseca.

Final note: We do ask that you collect your SCN samples and put them in a separate bag. This helps us move things along quicker. Cost per sample is \$20.00 and we try to stay within a week turn-around time.

### **Safety**

Slow down and take the time to operate with care—don't try to control mother nature.