

Lower Loup NRD
Advanced Soil Sampling Cost-Share Program

Information:

1. The purpose of the program is to encourage the adoption of advanced soil sampling analysis with the intention of reducing nutrient inputs and improving soil health.
 - a. Basic/general/routine soil analysis tests will not be eligible.
 - b. Eligible tests: Haney Test, Soil Health Assessment, Complete Soil Analysis Test,
 - i. Tests that include nutrient management recommendations based on available in-field credits and soil health recommendations.
 - c. 3 ft. Deep Soil (Subsoil) Nitrate test required.
2. Limited to 8 samples per landowner per year
 - a. One sample per 40 acres
3. Cost-Share: Up to \$55/sample for the advanced test and \$15/sample for deep soil test
4. Must be certified irrigated acres.
5. 4-Year Program

Application Process:

6. Landowners will complete an application that includes:
 - a. Landowner Information
 - b. Field Legal Descriptions and County
 - c. Number of Samples
 - d. W-9 and US Citizenship Forms
7. Submit the application to the Lower Loup Headquarters Office in Ord for approval by January 31st. Applicants will be notified no later than March 1st.
8. To receive payment, the applicant must submit the following to their local field office:
 - a. Receipts/Invoices for advanced soil samples taken/consultant fees.
 - b. Results of advanced soil samples from the soil lab
 - c. A survey will be conducted at submission of invoices/results to determine how the sampling program affected management decisions in their operation.

Advanced Soil Sampling Program Additional Information

The Advanced Soil Sampling Program is intended for soil tests that have a soil health assessment component. These tests take in-field nutrient credits into account when making nutrient management recommendations. The tests also provide cover crop recommendations for improving soil health as well.

If a producer does sign up, get approved for the program, and wants to do the sampling on his own, the best place to start would be for him to contact the lab he wants to use for the soil sampling to make sure he is sampling the field as the lab would intend him to. For example, Ward Labs makes a kit for their Soil Health Assessment test that the producer can use to follow their directions. Regen Labs in Pleasanton have their own sampling and submission instructions for the Soil Health Analysis Haney Test. Midwest Labs also has a kit for their Soil Health Complete Test.

If a producer is going to use an agronomist to take the samples, the producer will have to communicate to his agronomist that the sampling program will need the soil health assessment component from the lab the agronomist uses.

Here are the links to the webpages for examples of soil health tests the soil sampling program is looking for.

Ward Labs Soil Health Assessment - <https://www.wardlab.com/product/soil-health-assessment/>

Regen Ag Labs Soil Health Analysis Haney Test - <https://regenaglab.com/services/soil-health-analysis/>

Midwest Labs Soil Health Complete Test - <https://midwestlabs.com/agriculture>