Soil Testing

Taking a soil sample

For each area you wish to have tested, collect 15 or more samples with a spade or trowel from the top 5 to 6 inches of the soil and combine them into a small pail. Thoroughly mix them together. Place two cups of the blended soil into sample bag (obtained from the Extension Office) or a re-sealable plastic bag. Label the bag with the name of the area, for example, NE1. **If the soil is wet, let it air dry** before bringing the sample to your local Marais des Cygnes Extension District Office.

Reduced Rate Soil Tests

Each county has its own cost share arrangement for soil tests:

- **Miami County Residents** can get the basic analysis run for **75% of the cost** on up to 10 agriculture or 6 residential soil samples.
- **Linn County Residents** do not have a cost share program

The reduced rate soil tests are provided by funding from the **Miami County Conservation Districts** with a grant from the **Kansas Department of Agriculture-Department of Conservation**.
Soil Tests

Soil test recommendations allow producers to apply the proper amounts of fertilizer. Application of excess fertilizer wastes money and can potentially pollute our creeks, rivers and lakes.

The Local Conservation Districts want to prevent excess fertilizer from ending up in our lakes and streams. As a result, both Linn & Miami County Conservation Districts have created cost share programs to help reduce the cost of soil testing if the landowner agrees to not exceed K-State fertilization recommendations.

Since each county establishes its own cost share program, soil testing costs vary between counties. The cost share for Miami County residents covers 75% of the cost for basic analysis on up to 10 Agriculture samples or 6 residential samples. Linn County does not have a cost share program anymore.

“SOIL TEST TO BE SURE”

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