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# Crop Management Newsletter

News about Crop Management for producers in Dawson and Lynn Counties.

Thanks to the sponsors and the gins who support the Dawson/Lynn IPM Program  
(found on page 2)

## Soil Sampling

The foundation for a **sound fertility program is soil testing**. The only way to properly estimate how much of a nutrient is needed is through the soil sampling process.

Test your soil in the fall, several months prior to planting. Knowing certain essential elements are missing from your soil gives you time to get the right combination.

Due to high input costs, producers can no longer afford unnecessary applications. Therefore, establishing a realistic yield goal and then applying the amount needed to meet that goal are imperative. Setting too high a yield goal can lead to an over-application of a nutrient and increased input costs.

**The Dawson/ Lynn ICM program will be offering a soil sampling program again this year.** If you are interested in having your soils sampled through the Dawson/ Lynn ICM program call and I will help you. I will sample the field and send the samples to the Texas AgriLife Extension Service's Soil, Water and Forage Testing Laboratory in College Station for the analysis.

**The cost for sampling** is \$75 per field for fields quarter section (160 acres) or less in size if there are four (4) or fewer fields.

If there are five or more fields, the cost is \$65 per field for fields quarter section (160 acres) or less in size.

Fields larger than 160 acres will be charged at the per acre rate which corresponds to the number of fields placed in the program (\$0.46875 per acre for four or fewer fields or \$0.40625 per acre for five or more fields).

There will be a charge of \$25 per additional sample if a field is to be sampled as more than one management zone based on multiple crops being planted, soil type, landscape position and/or yield zones.

**The cost of the laboratory analysis** you request will be added to the sampling costs. The analysis I recommend for fertility only (Routine plus Micro-nutrients and Residual Nitrogen analysis) costs \$22.

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The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas cooperating.

Information that is obtained through the Routine plus Micro-nutrients and Residual Nitrogen analysis is:

- pH
- conductivity (indication of salinity level)
- level of available nutrients
  - nitrogen
  - phosphorus
  - potassium
  - calcium
  - magnesium
  - sulfur
  - sodium
  - iron
  - zinc
  - manganese
  - copper
- critical level for each nutrient
- recommended amount of each nutrient
- application suggestions

Additional information that can be obtained upon request at an additional cost is:

- detailed salinity (\$20)
- detailed limestone (\$10)
- soluble boron (\$7)
- textural (\$20)
- organic matter (\$20)
- or any combination.

This service is **open to all crops and management systems.**

I will need to meet with each producer to locate their fields on a computer. Also, if there are any special instructions for me to access the fields I will need that information. **I will be driving a pickup truck through the field** and will pull a 24-inch deep core every 1/10 mile to obtain the composite samples.

I will ask each producer who participates in this service to take a short survey towards the end of the growing season.

I also ask that all costs be paid prior to the field being sampled.

Information gathered may be used for educational purposes in meetings, however, everyone will remain anonymous.

If there are any questions please call the Dawson County Texas AgriLife Extension Service at (806) 872-3444.

Special THANKS to those who support  
Agriculture and the Lynn/Dawson IPM  
Program

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Many Thanks to the Gins who participate and support the Lynn/Dawson IPM Program

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Woolam Gin**

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