Pre-Sidedress Nitrate Testing (PSNT)

*Assess your Nitrogen needs and **reduce your Nitrogen cost**!*

Do I have to sign up for Cost Share to have samples analyzed?

- No, the District can analyze samples regardless of cost share participation

Is Cost Share or Tax Credit available?

- Yes, producers who utilize Pre-Sidedress Nitrate Testing (PSNT) to determine the necessary sidedress Nitrogen application rate are eligible for Cost Share or Tax Credit
  - Cost Share: $12 per sample and $6 per acre for Nitrogen application
  - Tax Credit: 25% of eligible out-of-pocket expenses

How do I sign up for Cost Share or Tax Credit?

- Provide the District with Farm Service Agency (FSA) maps for the fields you wish to enroll
- **Sign up must be completed by April 1st**

What do I need to provide the District to receive Cost Share or Tax Credit?

- **A current Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) which includes all fields enrolled and also includes the appropriate crop season**
- A completed Nutrient Application Field Record Sheet if samples are analyzed by the District
- PSNT analysis results and Nitrogen recommendations (if samples were not analyzed by the District)
- Invoices for Nitrogen application (if applicable)
- A listing of Nitrogen application rates on all fields enrolled

Important Sampling Reminders!

- **Soil samples must be taken when corn is 8 to 15 inches in height at the whorl**
  - This is the stage of growth just ahead of peak Nitrogen demand and just before sidedressing is typically done
- **The District will NOT sample corn that is over 36 inches in height.** We will gladly analyze soil samples collected by producers
- **PSNT analysis is suited for fields that have a history of organic sources (manure) of Nitrogen**
- **Broadcast application of more than 40lbs of commercial fertilizer applied at or after planting and before the sample is collected may skew results and affect Nitrogen recommendations. Therefore, fields that have received more than 40lbs commercial fertilizer broadcast before sampling are not be suitable for the PSNT analysis**
- To comply with the PSNT Cost Share Program, samples must represent a single field. Fields that are not connected and not managed as a single field must be sampled separately. Fields that do not have the same field history cannot be combined for sampling

Pricing

- Sample Collection & Analysis - **$30/sample**
  - Includes SVSWCD staff sample collection and analysis
- Sample Analysis Only - **$10/sample**
  - Includes analysis of samples dropped off at our office
- Drop Off/Pick-Up Fee - **$15/trip**
  - Flat rate charge for the drop off or pick-up of PSNT supplies and/or samples

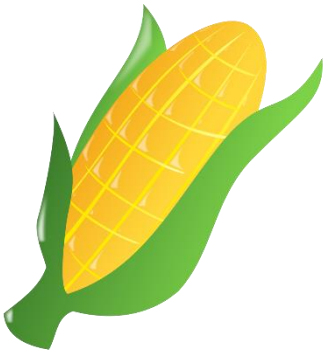
Contact the Shenandoah Valley Soil & Water Conservation District at (540) 534-3105 for questions

Fees for Fields That Are Too Tall, Too Small or Not Planted in Corn

- **We will NOT sample corn that is over 36 inches in height**
  - Fields that are deemed too tall or too small when staff arrive to sample will incur a $15/field fee
- Producers are encouraged to be aware of the height of their corn before contacting the SVSWCD to schedule sampling. We will gladly analyze soil samples collected by producers
- Fields requested to be sampled that are not planted in corn will incur $15/field fee

PSNT Soil Sample Collection and Analysis by the District

- Sampling is available upon request, **call at least 7 to 10 days prior to your corn being 8 to 15 inches in height at the whorl to schedule sampling**
- Results and recommendations are typically available 24-36 hours after sampling
- If you plan to drop off samples for analysis, advanced notice is appreciated. A Nutrient Application Field Record Sheet must be completed and submitted with samples
- Samples will only be collected and analyzed during business hours. Samples dropped off at the SVSWCD office after 2:00 pm will be analyzed the next business day



PSNT Soil Sampling Tips

Proper sampling is critical for accurate results

- **Samples should be collected when corn is 8 to 15 inches in height at the whorl**; this is the stage of growth just ahead of peak Nitrogen demand
- A 12 inch soil sample is preferred
  - If you do not get a 12 inch sample it is critical to indicate sample depth so analysis can be adjusted
- Take at least 10-15 sub-samples to create a composite sample for a field; **all samples within a field should be collected at the same depth**
  - Combine sub-samples to make one composite sample of approximately 2 cups of soil
- **Take samples between the rows, not in the rows; contact office for guidance on manure injected fields**
- Brush surface residue aside with your foot before taking a sub-sample
- Place sample in a Ziploc bag labeled with a field number or name corresponding to your Field Record Sheet
- **If the field is greater than 30 acres, you are encouraged to split the field into sub-fields based on soil characteristics**
- Avoid collecting sub-samples in odd areas of the field such as wet spots or where fertilizer/manure applications may have overlapped
- Avoid sampling immediately after an excessive rainfall event
- Complete Field Record Sheet indicating field history (previous crops, nutrient application, date, rate, type)
  - Indicate amount of starter Nitrogen applied - Avoid sampling fields with more than 40 pounds per acre of broadcast Nitrogen applied at or after planting and before sampling as this may skew results
- **Refrigerate samples prior to analysis**