



Five Reasons You Need to Soil Test for Your Sugar Beet Crop

The fall season brings thoughts of preparing for next season’s crops. Soil testing is an extremely important part of a successful sugar beet crop. In this Agricultural Beet, we will discuss five reasons why soil sampling needs to be a part of your sugar beet production plan.

1. Soil testing is the best management tool to measure the residual soil nutrients in your field.

- For sugar beet production residual nitrate nitrogen is the most important nutrient.
- Phosphorus and potassium are also important nutrients for your crop.

2. Proper fertility management is key to a quality sugar beet crop.

- The table below utilizes data from the SMBSC Agronomic Practice Database.

2016 SMBSC Agronomic Practice Database

Total Nitrogen (lbs. / Acre)	Tons/Acre	Sugar Percent	Net Revenue*
<100	28.5	14.7	-\$54.07
100-120	28.9	15.0	100%
121-140	28.4	14.9	-\$48.96
141-160	28.3	14.8	-\$69.16
>160	28.2	14.3	-\$179.44

*subtracts \$.40 per pound nitrogen cost for nitrogen applied above SMBSC recommendation.

3. SMBSC Soil Analysis Program pays soil sample analysis fees for samples that meet all requirements.

- For details on SMBSC Soil Analysis Program follow this link.
<http://www.smbc.com/Agronomy/AgBeet/2019%20SMBSC%20Fertility%20Analysis%20Program.pdf>

4. Save money on fertilizer costs or place fertilizer where it is most needed to maximize sugar production.

- Reduce fertilizer application in areas of your field that already test high and place that fertilizer in areas of the field that require an application to maximize production.

5. SMBSC will directly compensate shareholders \$2 per acre on fields the shareholder follows all the requirements of the SMBSC fertility analysis program.

- Must meet all requirements of SMBSC Fertility Analysis Program. Requirements are listed in the linked document shown under #3.
- Compensation is to help shareholders defray cost of sampling.
- Compensation will be paid in shareholders beet payment for the sugar beet crop the samples were taken for.

For questions on sugar beet fertility or the SMBSC Soil Analysis Program, contact your agriculturist.

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