



## PastureWise Soil Sampling Guide



### Plan for Success

Pastures need to be strategically managed to provide reliable grazing. The vigor and capacity of the pasture depends on a well-planned fertilization program that will not only improve the quality, but also increase its hardiness and persistence. A soil analysis is the first step towards reaching this goal.

AgSource Laboratories' PastureWise soil analysis will determine the soil pH and key nutrient levels present in the soil and provide specific recommendations for lime and the fertilizer nutrients necessary for healthy pasture growth.

While nutrient deficient soils result in weak and stunted plants, applying too much fertilizer can also be detrimental. A professional soil analysis is the only way to measure and adjust nutrient levels.

The pH level of the soil affects the availability of those nutrients as well. A slightly acidic soil (pH 6.2 – 7.0) is favorable for most grass and mixed grass and legume pastures. The amount of lime needed to raise soil pH will be recommended from the soil test and can be incorporated during pasture renovation or spread on the surface where rain and foot traffic will help it move into the soil.

### Where and When to Sample

Pastures from one to 10 acres can be sampled as one field.

- For larger pastures collect one sample for every 10 acres
- Take separate samples from areas with varying soil types or different plant/crop species

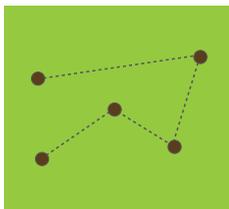
Samples can be collected anytime the soil is moist enough to dig or probe easily, preferably in the spring or fall.



## Collecting a Soil Sample



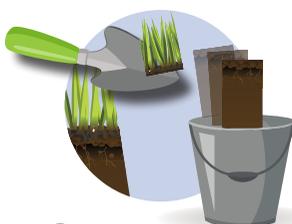
- 1 Use a soil probe, or a small shovel



- 2 For each sample walk in a random, zig-zag pattern through the pasture



- 3 Take 15 to 20 cores, or slices, of soil from the pasture to the depth of five to seven inches



- 4 Remove large pieces of grass thatch, roots, stones, or debris from the soil sample



- 5 Place all these subsamples in a bucket and mix thoroughly to form a composite sample



- 6 Remove enough soil from the composite sample to fill the soil sample bag

## Shipping Instructions

1. Label the soil sample bag with your name and identify the sample the same as on the form.
2. Complete the entire PastureWise Soil Test Submission form.
3. Place the soil sample bag(s) and the form into the mailer container.
4. Send to your nearest AgSource Laboratories location:

### Lincoln, Nebraska

A: 300 Speedway Circle, Suite 2  
Lincoln, NE 68502  
P: 402.476.0300  
E: lincoln@agsource.com

### Ellsworth, Iowa

A: 1701 Detroit St., PO Box 247  
Ellsworth, IA 50075  
P: 515.836.4444  
E: ellsworth@agsource.com

### Bonduel, Wisconsin

A: 106 North Cecil Street  
Bonduel, WI 54107  
P: 715.758.2178  
E: bonduel@agsource.com

### Stratford, Wisconsin

A: 117609 Forward Street  
Stratford, WI 54484  
P: 715.687.9997  
E: stratford@agsource.com