Reduce Fertilizer Costs by Improved On-Farm Nutrient Use

- Soil test - P, K, pH.
- Eliminate starter fertilizer on fields with high soil P.
- Don't broadcast N fertilizer at planting.
- Make the most of manure.
  - manure storage and handling
  - manure analysis
  - field prioritization
  - manure spreader calibration
  - timely incorporation
- Use the pre-sidedress N test.
  - Critical value 25 ppm nitrate-N
- Evaluate your nutrient use efficiency.
  - Nutrient management plan
  - Plant effective cover crops
  - Use crop rotations
  - Visual inspection of corn for N excess
  - Corn stalk test for nitrate-N (700 to 2000 ppm)
  - Phosphorus feeding level (fecal P test)

Collect soil samples when corn is about 12 inches tall.

Take 8 inch stalk samples (6 inches above ground) at harvest time.

For more information on methods go to www.umass.edu/cdl

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