

# 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](http://www.umass.edu/cdl)