

This column features questions from readers submitted via the Web site. To submit a question to Small Acre Sam, visit BarnyardsandBackyards.com. If your question is featured, you will receive a free one-year subscription to *Barnyards & Backyards!*



ask Sam

question

Dear Sam,

Do I need a soil test, and where can I get one?

– *Burt, Natrona County*

Dear Burt,

If you've never had your soil tested, now is the time to do it. The results will not only tell you how much fertilizer you need, if any, but will also tell you if there are any potential problems because of pH (the level of soil acidity or basicity), salt, or other issues. Once you know your soil is healthy from a nutrient, pH, and salt point of view, you can rotate your pastures or fields to sample one area each year so you can track your progress in building and maintaining a healthy, productive soil. The University of Wyoming College of Agriculture's Soil Testing Laboratory can test your soil. Information sheets that detail how to take and submit a sample and a fee form can be obtained from any county UW Cooperative Extension Service office, or they can be downloaded from http://ces.uwyo.edu/Soil_Main.asp.

You can contact the laboratory at (307) 745-4825 or by e-mail at soiltest@uwyo.edu.

Sincerely, **Sam**

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