

# **NRCS and Soil Health in the Big Horn Basin:** **What is working?**

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Natural Resources Conservation Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

# **NRCS: Who we are and what we do.**

- **Natural Resources Conservation Service**
  - **Mission Statement: Helping People Help The Land**
    - **Assist clients to identify and solve Resource Concerns**
      - **Resource Concerns Categories are:**
        - **Soil, Water, Air, Plant, Animal, Energy, Humans**

### Field Sediment, nutrient and Pathogen Loss

- Sediment transported to surface water
- Nutrients transported to surface water
- Nutrients transported to ground water

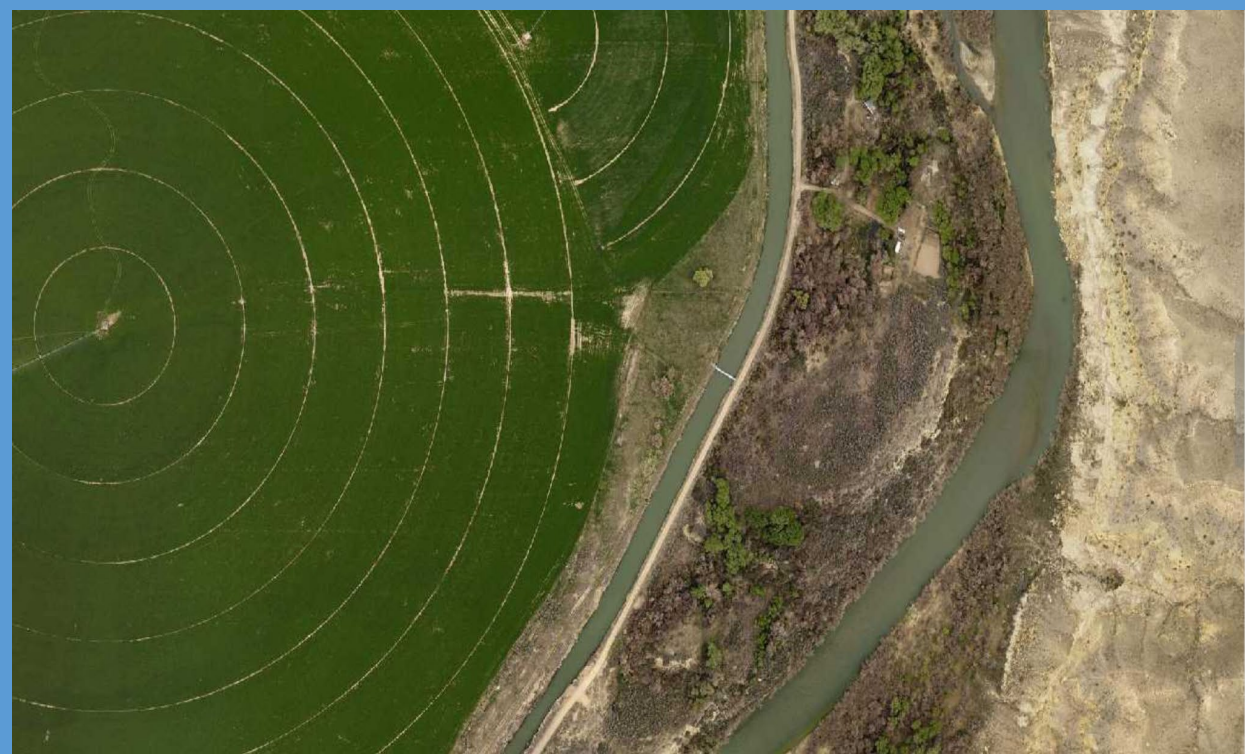


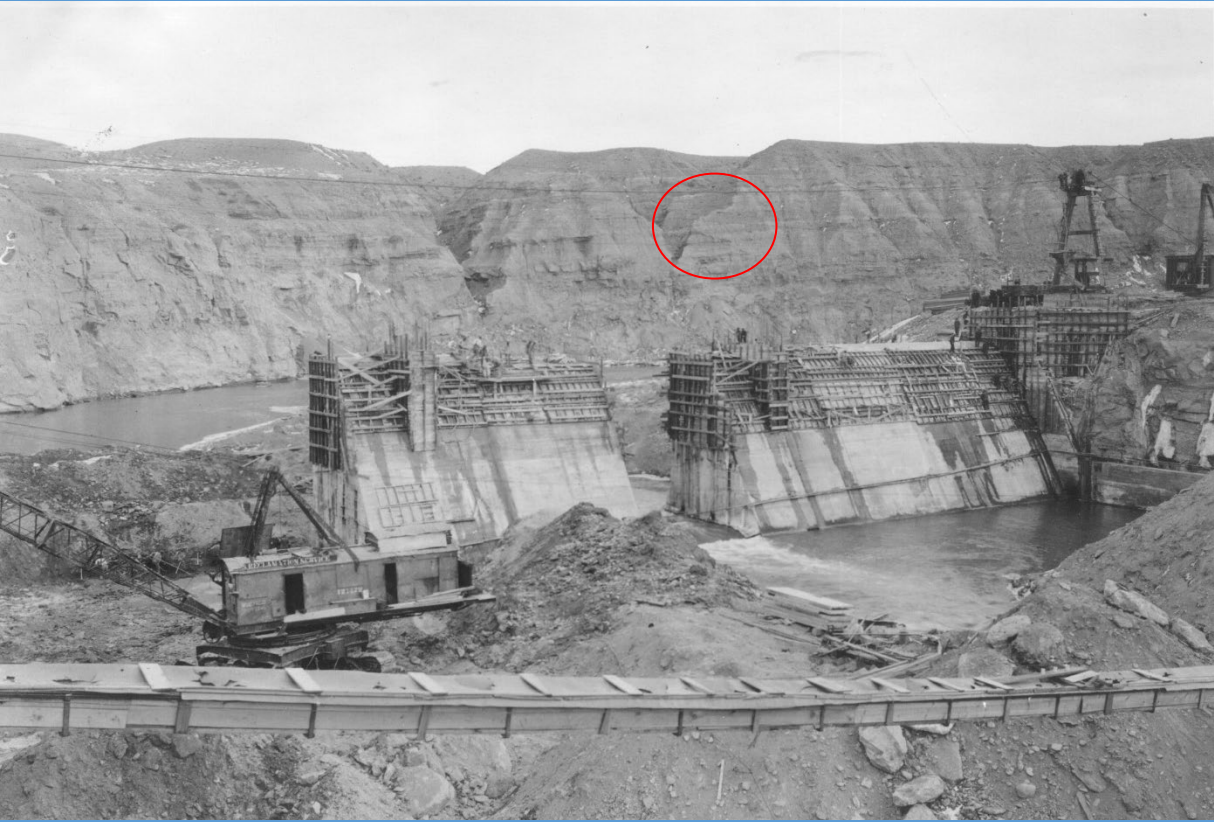
An aerial photograph showing a river flowing through a landscape. The river is wide and has a light brown, turbid appearance, indicating sediment transport. The surrounding land is a mix of green vegetation and brown, eroded soil. A white text box is overlaid on the upper left portion of the image.

### Field Sediment, nutrient and Pathogen Loss

- Sediment transported to surface water
- Nutrients transported to surface water

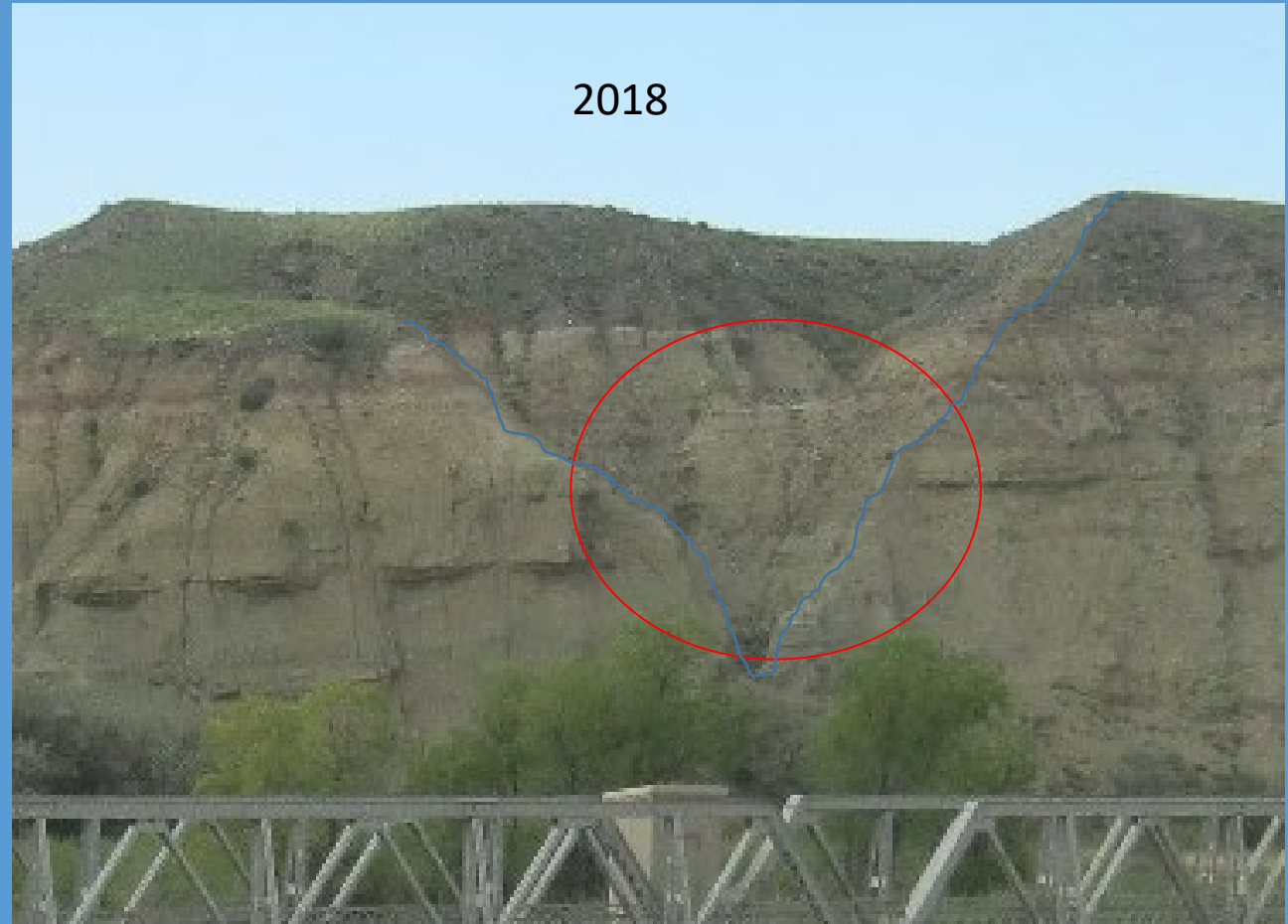
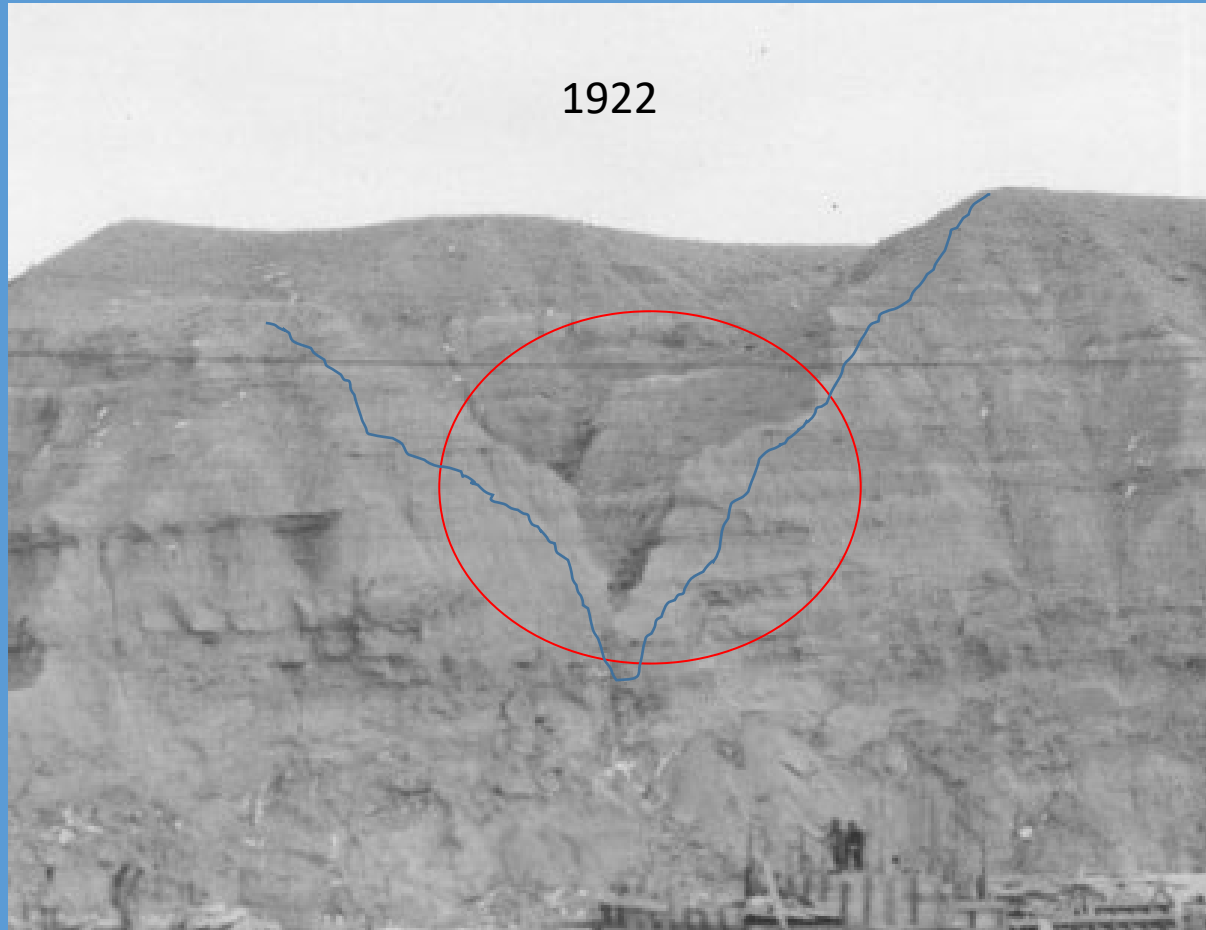


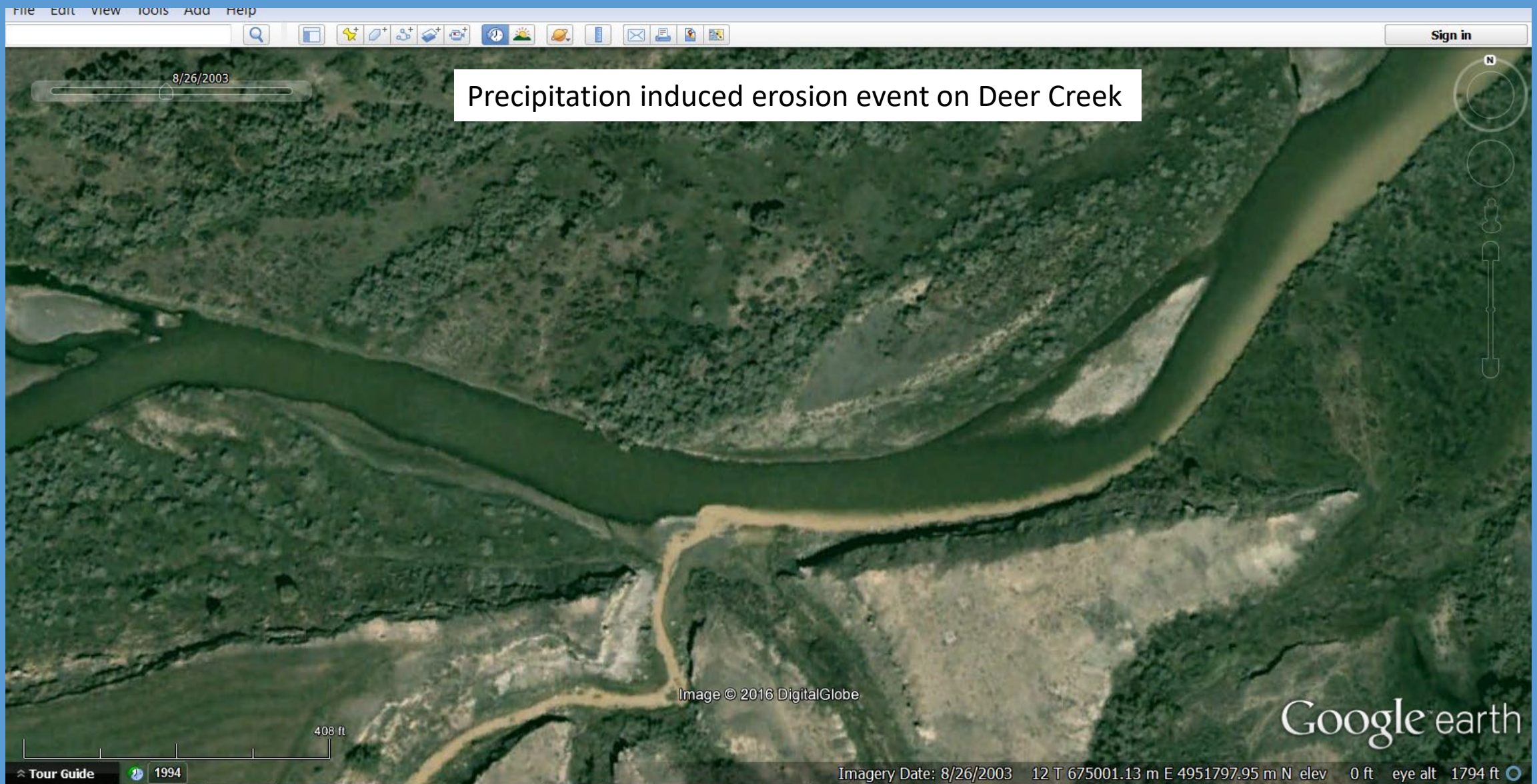




1922

2018





# Soil Category

## - Concentration of salts or other chemicals

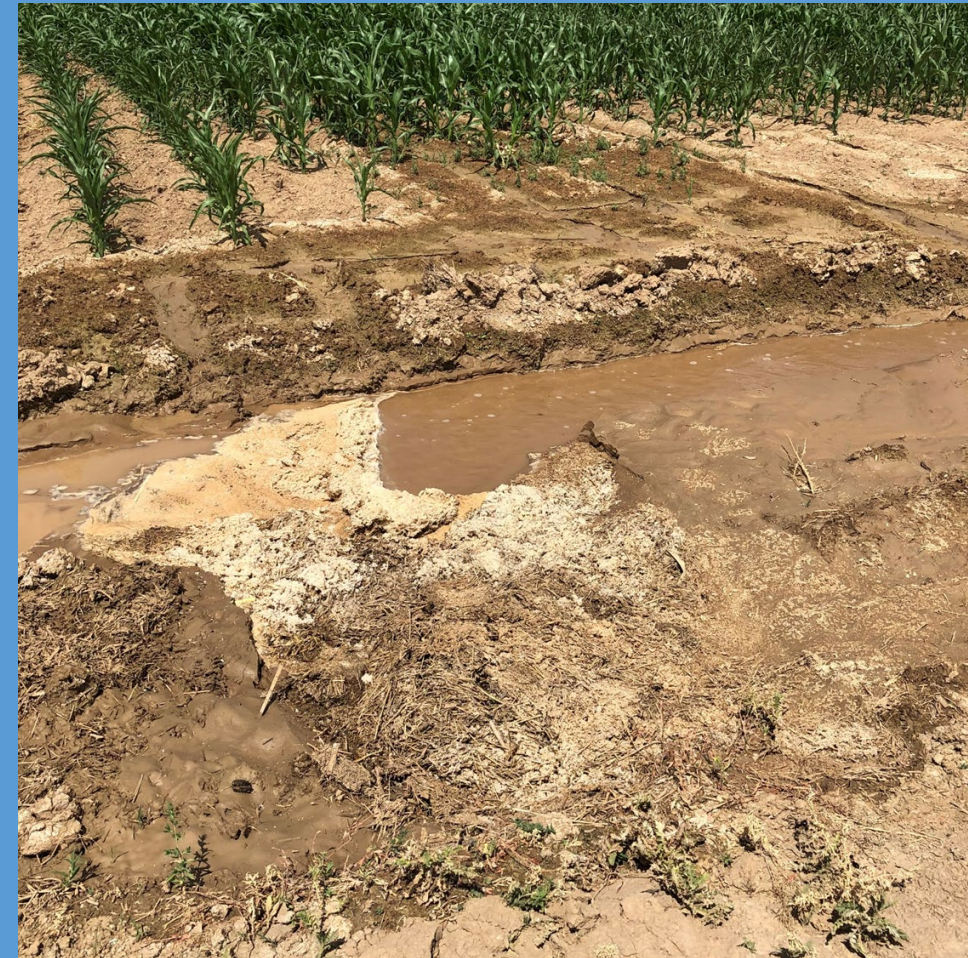
- Concentration of salts leading to salinity and/or sodicity reducing productivity or limiting desired use.



# Soil Category

## - Aggregate Instability

- Management-induced degradation of water stable soil aggregates.
  - reduced water infiltration
  - reduced water holding capacity
  - reduced resilience to extreme weather
  - reduced habitat and soil biological activity.
  - increased ponding and flooding
  - increased soil erosion and plant stress
  - Increased surface crusting



## Sprinkler Irrigation



## Wheel-line Irrigation



## Surge Valve Irrigation Systems



04/14/2015 11:22



04/21/2015 16:20



04/21/2015 09:18



04/20/2015 11:10



04/20/2015 11:30

60% less water and 80% less sediment transport



Sprinkler Irrigation



Wheel-line Irrigation



# Cover Crops

- Planted after barley harvest
- September 1, 2023
- NRCS cost incentive = \$76/ac

Oct 16, 2023 at 9:52:59 AM  
Basin WY 82410  
United States



## Cover Crop 340 Seeding Tool (Planned) - NRCS Wyoming

| Name:                   | Big Horn Basin Producer          |                             |                     |                     |                                   |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Tract and Field Number: | Tract 00, Field 1, Partial Pivot |                             |                     |                     |                                   |
| Acres:                  | 32                               |                             |                     |                     |                                   |
| Soil map unit:          | 45AB - Sandy Clay Loam           |                             |                     |                     |                                   |
| Plant Species           | Cultivar                         | *Seed Rate<br>PLS<br>Lbs/ac | Seeds<br>per<br>Lbs | Seed<br>per<br>Acre | Total PLS<br>Planned<br>Lbs/field |
| <b>LEGUMES</b>          |                                  |                             |                     |                     |                                   |
| Pea, Austrian Winter    |                                  | 16.0                        | 4,000               | 64,000              | 512                               |
| Vetch, Common           |                                  | 8.0                         | 8,000               | 64,000              | 256                               |
|                         |                                  |                             |                     |                     |                                   |
|                         |                                  |                             |                     |                     |                                   |
|                         |                                  |                             |                     |                     |                                   |
|                         |                                  |                             |                     |                     |                                   |
| <b>GRASSES</b>          |                                  |                             |                     |                     |                                   |
|                         |                                  |                             |                     |                     |                                   |
|                         |                                  |                             |                     |                     |                                   |
|                         |                                  |                             |                     |                     |                                   |
|                         |                                  |                             |                     |                     |                                   |
|                         |                                  |                             |                     |                     |                                   |
| <b>BRASSICAS</b>        |                                  |                             |                     |                     |                                   |
| Claytonia, Impact For   |                                  | 2.5                         | 175,000             | 437,500             | 80                                |
| Turnip, Purple top      |                                  | 2.0                         | 175,000             | 350,000             | 64                                |
| Raidis, Dorian          |                                  | 2.5                         | 25,000              | 62,500              | 80                                |
|                         |                                  |                             |                     |                     |                                   |
| <b>BROADLEAFS</b>       |                                  |                             |                     |                     |                                   |
|                         |                                  |                             |                     |                     |                                   |
|                         |                                  |                             |                     |                     |                                   |
|                         |                                  |                             |                     |                     |                                   |
| <b>Total</b>            |                                  | <b>31</b>                   |                     | <b>978,000</b>      | <b>992</b>                        |

Oilseed Radish (*Raphanus sativus*)



11/10/2016

Winter Pea



Forage Collards



Nitro Radish



Common Vetch



# Nutrient Management

-Recent soil test

-Follow UW Fertilizer recommendation\*

-NRCS cost incentive = \$21/ac

Producer: \_\_\_\_\_

Field Office: \_\_\_\_\_

Farm/Tract No: \_\_\_\_\_

Contract No: \_\_\_\_\_

Field No: \_\_\_\_\_

CIN: \_\_\_\_\_

## **DEFINITION:**

Manage rate, source, placement, and timing of plant nutrients and soil amendments while reducing environmental impacts.

## **PURPOSE (select all that apply):**

- Improve plant health and productivity.
- Reduce excess nutrients in surface and ground water.
- Reduce emissions of objectionable odors.
- Reduce emissions of particulate matter (PM) and PM precursors.
- Reduce emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG).
- Reduce emissions of ozone precursors.
- Reduce the risk of potential pathogens from manure, biosolids, or compost application from reaching surface and ground water.
- Improve or maintain soil organic matter.

## **WHERE USED:**

All fields where plant nutrients and soil amendments are applied. Does not apply to one-time nutrient applications at establishment of permanent vegetation.

## **SPECIFICATIONS:**

Nutrient management plans will be based on current soil test results in accordance with University of Wyoming guidance, or industry practice when recognized by the Land Grant University. Use soil tests no older than 2 years when developing new nutrient management plans.

Plan nutrient application rates for N, P, and K using University of Wyoming recommendations (Agronomy Technical Note 10) or industry practices when recognized by the University of Wyoming. Lower-than-recommended nutrient application rates are permissible if the client's objectives are met.

At a minimum, determine the rate based on crop/cropping sequence, current soil test results, and NRCS- approved nutrient risk assessments. Where applicable, use realistic yield goals.

Use current NRCS-approved nitrogen, phosphorus, and soil erosion risk assessment tools to assess the site-specific risk of nutrient and soil loss (RUSLE2, WEPS, Agronomy Technical Note 15, Agronomy Technical Note 25).

Consider the nutrient source, management and production system limitations, soil properties, weather conditions, drainage system, soil biology, and nutrient risk assessment to develop optimal timing of nutrients.

For N, time the application as closely as practical with plant and crop uptake. For P, time planned surface application when runoff potential is low. Time the application of all nutrients to minimize potential for soil compaction

# Nutrient Management

## -NRCS Implementation Requirement (IR)

- \*Lower-than-recommended nutrient application rates are permissible if the client's objectives are met



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

590 – Nutrient Management  
Implementation Requirements

|                |                       |               |              |
|----------------|-----------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Producer:      | Big Horn Basin Farmer | Field Office: | Powell       |
| Farm/Tract No: |                       | Contract No:  |              |
| Field No:      | 1                     | CIN:          | <sup>1</sup> |

### DEFINITION:

Manage rate, source, placement, and timing of plant nutrients and soil amendments while reducing environmental impacts.

### PURPOSE (select all that apply):

- ☐ Improve plant health and productivity.
- ☐ Reduce excess nutrients in surface and ground water.
- ☐ Reduce emissions of objectionable odors.
- ☐ Reduce emissions of particulate matter (PM) and PM precursors.
- ☐ Reduce emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG).
- ☐ Reduce emissions of ozone precursors.
- ☐ Reduce the risk of potential pathogens from manure, biosolids, or compost application from reaching surface and ground water.
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Consider the nutrient source, management and production system limitations, soil properties, weather conditions, drainage system, soil biology, and nutrient risk assessment to develop optimal timing of nutrients.

For N, time the application as closely as practical with plant and crop uptake. For P, time planned surface application when runoff potential is low. Time the application of all nutrients to minimize potential for soil compaction

Tract/Field \_\_\_\_\_ Sparks 35  
Date \_\_\_\_\_ 4/20/2023

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |          |    |                                   |    |                       |   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|----|-----------------------------------|----|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Amount to be Applied (lb./ac)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>N</b> | 57 | <b>P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub></b> | 34 | <b>K<sub>2</sub>O</b> | 0 |
| <b>Method, Form, and Timing of Application:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |          |    |                                   |    |                       |   |
| N credit given for application of irrigation water with sprinkler pivot that results in reduced loss of N to ground and surface water and improved soil organism populations and more efficient N uptake at the root zone. (30% reduction of UW flood irrigation system recommendation.) |          |    |                                   |    |                       |   |

# Reduced Tillage

- Soil Tillage Intensity Rating of 80 or less
- Leave residue on surface
- 25% fuel savings or greater
- NRCS Cost Incentive: \$16/ac

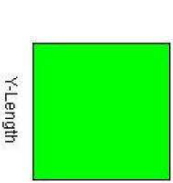


## Run Summary

Sparks 35 Benchmark

|               |                                           |           |            |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Run Date:     | Monday, April 24, 2023, 12:57 PM          |           |            |
| Client Name:  | [REDACTED]                                |           |            |
| Farm No:      | [REDACTED]                                | Tract No: | [REDACTED] |
| Run Location: | [REDACTED]                                |           |            |
| Management:   | 2023 Sparks 35 Barley Benchmark_calib.man |           |            |
| Soil:         | Lostwells_like_45AB_40_SCL.ifc            |           |            |
| Field No:     | Sparks 35                                 |           |            |

### Location Site Information

|                                                                                   |              |           |                          |                           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-----------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
|  | X-Length:    | 1234.9 ft | Mode:                    | NRCS                      |
|                                                                                   | Y-Length:    | 1234.9 ft | Soil Loss Tolerance (T): | 5.0 t/ac/yr               |
|                                                                                   | Area:        | 35.0 ac   | Site:                    | UNITED STATES             |
|                                                                                   | Elevation:   | 4058.4 ft |                          | WYOMING                   |
|                                                                                   | Orientation: | 0.0 °     |                          | BIG HORN                  |
|                                                                                   |              |           | Location:                | 44.43682° N, 108.28322° W |
|                                                                                   |              |           | Cligen:                  | WORLAND                   |
|                                                                                   |              |           | Windgen:                 | WORLAND                   |

### Erosion

| Period       | Crop/Residue   | Gross Loss<br>t/ac | Net Soil Loss From Field ( t/ac ) |             |         |      |
|--------------|----------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|---------|------|
|              |                |                    | Total                             | Creep/Salt. | Suspen. | PM10 |
| Rot. year: 1 | Barley, spring | 17.8               | 17.8                              | 9.3         | 8.5     | 0.20 |
| Ave. Annual  |                | 17.8               | 17.8                              | 9.3         | 8.5     | 0.20 |

### Crop Interval Erosion

| Date Range              | Days | Crop           | Gross Loss<br>t/ac | Net Soil Loss From Field ( t/ac ) |             |              |
|-------------------------|------|----------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|--------------|
|                         |      |                |                    | Total                             | Creep/Salt. | Suspen. PM10 |
| Aug 01, 01 - Aug 01, 01 | 365  | Barley, spring |                    |                                   |             |              |

### Harvests

| Date       | Crop           | Residue<br>lb/ac | Harvest<br>Yield | Yield<br>% Moisture |
|------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Aug 01, 01 | Barley, spring | 9,486            | 148.0 bu/ac      | 9.6                 |

### SCI Summary

|                          |                   |                |       |
|--------------------------|-------------------|----------------|-------|
| Soil Conditioning Index: | -1.0              | SCI Subfactors |       |
| Energy Calculator:       | 7.2 gal diesel/ac | OM:            | 0.95  |
| Average Annual STIR:     | 159.0             | FO:            | -0.57 |
| Wind Erosion Soil Loss:  | 17.8 t/ac         | ER:            | -6.00 |
| Water Erosion Soil       | 0.0 t/ac          |                |       |

## Run Summary

Sparks 35 Benchmark

| Rotation Stir Energy |                                              |        |       |                  |                |
|----------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------|-------|------------------|----------------|
| Date                 | Operation                                    | Fuel   | Stir  | Energy<br>Btu/ac | Cost<br>USD/ac |
| Mar 15, 01           | Fert applic. surface broadcast               | Diesel | 0.1   | 24,695           | 0.71           |
| Mar 15, 01           | Plow, moldboard                              | Diesel | 65.0  | 287,964          | 8.23           |
| Mar 16, 01           | Disk, offset, heavy                          | Diesel | 39.0  | 138,594          | 3.96           |
| Mar 17, 01           | Cultipacker, roller                          | Diesel | 35.6  | 95,489           | 2.73           |
| Mar 17, 01           | Land plane                                   | Diesel | 10.4  | 138,594          | 3.96           |
| Mar 17, 01           | Furrow shaper, torpedo                       | Diesel | 2.2   | 53,881           | 1.54           |
| Mar 20, 01           | Drill or airseeder, double disk              | Diesel | 6.3   | 55,378           | 1.58           |
| May 01, 01           | Irrigation, Start Monitor (Border, Furrow)   | Diesel | 0.0   | 0                | 0.00           |
| May 15, 01           | Sprayer, post emergence                      | Diesel | 0.1   | 20,056           | 0.57           |
| Aug 01, 01           | Harvest, killing crop 30pct standing stubble | Diesel | 0.1   | 235,579          | 6.73           |
| Aug 05, 01           | Bale straw or residue                        | Diesel | 0.1   | 58,521           | 1.67           |
| Oct 15, 01           | Irrigation, Stop Monitor                     | Diesel | 0.0   | 0                | 0.00           |
| Total / ac           |                                              |        |       | 1,108,750        | 31.69          |
| Total                |                                              |        | 159.0 | 38,816,387       | 1,109.37       |

### Crop Interval Stir Energy

| Date Range              | Days | Crop           | Stir  | Energy<br>Btu/ac | Cost<br>USD/ac |
|-------------------------|------|----------------|-------|------------------|----------------|
| Aug 01, 01 - Aug 01, 01 | 365  | Barley, spring | 159.0 | 1,108,750        | 31.69          |

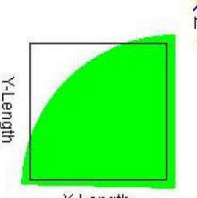
### Notes

# Run Summary

Sparks 35 Planned Barley\_1

|                      |                                   |                  |  |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|--|
| <b>Run Date:</b>     | Monday, April 24, 2023, 12:51 PM  |                  |  |
| <b>Client Name:</b>  |                                   |                  |  |
| <b>Farm No:</b>      |                                   | <b>Tract No:</b> |  |
| <b>Run Location:</b> |                                   |                  |  |
| <b>Management:</b>   | 2023 Sparks 35 Barley Planned.man |                  |  |
| <b>Soil:</b>         | Lostwells_like_45AB_40_SCL.iff    |                  |  |
| <b>Field No:</b>     | Sparks 35                         |                  |  |

## Location Site Information

|                                                                                                                  |                     |           |                                 |                           |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
|  <p>Field shape approximate</p> | <b>X-Length:</b>    | 1234.9 ft | <b>Mode:</b>                    | NRCS                      |
|                                                                                                                  | <b>Y-Length:</b>    | 1234.9 ft | <b>Soil Loss Tolerance (T):</b> | 5.0 t/ac/yr               |
|                                                                                                                  | <b>Radius:</b>      | 1393.4 ft | <b>Site:</b>                    | UNITED STATES             |
|                                                                                                                  | <b>Area:</b>        | 35.0 ac   |                                 | WYOMING                   |
|                                                                                                                  | <b>Elevation:</b>   | 4058.4 ft |                                 | BIG HORN                  |
|                                                                                                                  | <b>Orientation:</b> | 0.0 °     | <b>Location:</b>                | 44.43682° N, 108.28322° W |
|                                                                                                                  |                     |           | <b>Cligen:</b>                  | WORLAND                   |
|                                                                                                                  |                     |           | <b>Windgen:</b>                 | WORLAND                   |

## Erosion

| Period       | Crop/Residue   | Gross Loss<br>t/ac | Net Soil Loss From Field ( t/ac ) |         |      |
|--------------|----------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|---------|------|
|              |                |                    | Total Creep/Salt.                 | Suspen. | PM10 |
| Rot. year: 1 | Barley, spring | 0.0                | 0.0                               | 0.0     | 0.00 |
| Ave. Annual  |                | 0.0                | 0.0                               | 0.0     | 0.00 |

## Crop Interval Erosion

| Date Range              | Days | Crop           | Gross Loss<br>t/ac | Net Soil Loss From Field ( t/ac ) |         |      |
|-------------------------|------|----------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|---------|------|
|                         |      |                |                    | Total Creep/Salt.                 | Suspen. | PM10 |
| Aug 01, 01 - Aug 01, 01 | 365  | Barley, spring |                    |                                   |         |      |

## Harvests

| Date       | Crop           | Residue<br>lb/ac | Harvest<br>Yield | Yield<br>% Moisture |
|------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Aug 01, 01 | Barley, spring | 12,245           | 194.4 bu/ac      | 9.6                 |

## SCI Summary

|                                 |                   |                       |      |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|------|
| <b>Soil Conditioning Index:</b> | 1.0               | <b>SCI Subfactors</b> |      |
| <b>Energy Calculator:</b>       | 2.9 gal diesel/ac | <b>OM:</b>            | 1.02 |
| <b>Average Annual STIR:</b>     | 11.7              | <b>FO:</b>            | 0.88 |
| <b>Wind Erosion Soil Loss:</b>  | 0.0 t/ac          | <b>ER:</b>            | 1.00 |
| <b>Water Erosion Soil</b>       | 0.0 t/ac          |                       |      |

# Run Summary

Sparks 35 Planned Barley\_1

## Rotation Stir Energy

| Date              | Operation                                           | Fuel   | Stir | Energy<br>Btu/ac | Cost<br>USD/ac |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|--------|------|------------------|----------------|
| Mar 15, 01        | Fert applic. surface broadcast                      | Diesel | 0.1  | 24,695           | 0.71           |
| Mar 17, 01        | Strip till bed conditioner                          | Diesel | 4.9  | 49,241           | 1.41           |
| Mar 20, 01        | Drill or airseeder, double disk                     | Diesel | 6.3  | 55,378           | 1.58           |
| May 01, 01        | Irrigation, Start Monitor (pivot, linear, wheeline) | Diesel | 0.0  | 0                | 0.00           |
| May 15, 01        | Sprayer, post emergence                             | Diesel | 0.1  | 20,056           | 0.57           |
| Aug 01, 01        | Harvest, killing crop 30pct standing stubble        | Diesel | 0.1  | 235,579          | 6.73           |
| Aug 05, 01        | Bale straw or residue                               | Diesel | 0.1  | 58,521           | 1.67           |
| Oct 15, 01        | Irrigation, Stop Monitor                            | Diesel | 0.0  | 0                | 0.00           |
| <b>Total / ac</b> |                                                     |        |      | 443,470          | 12.67          |
| <b>Total</b>      |                                                     |        |      | 11.7             | 15,525,507     |
|                   |                                                     |        |      |                  | 443.72         |

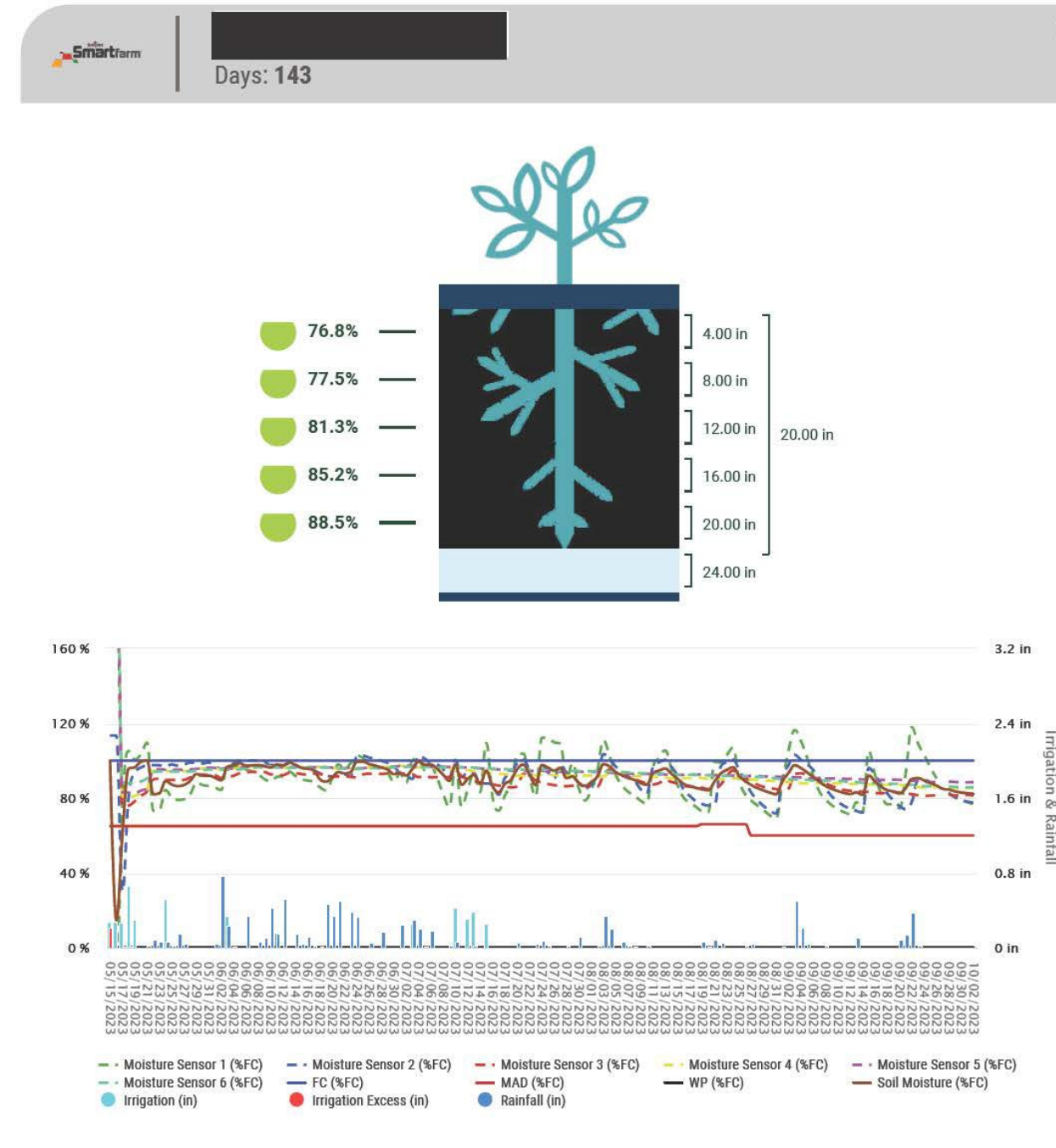
## Crop Interval Stir Energy

| Date Range              | Days | Crop           | Stir | Energy<br>Btu/ac | Cost<br>USD/ac |
|-------------------------|------|----------------|------|------------------|----------------|
| Aug 01, 01 - Aug 01, 01 | 365  | Barley, spring | 11.7 | 443,470          | 12.67          |

## Notes

# Advanced Irrigation Water Management

- Soil moisture sensor or local climate station
- Flow meter
- minimum 3 years
- NRCS Cost Incentive: \$573/Yr 2-3
- NRCS Cost Incentive: \$3143/Yr 1



# Conservation Cover (Pollinator Habitat)



06/19/2017 09:46

# Soil Health Toolbox





# **Summary**

- **Irrigation System**
  - **Pivot Sprinkler**
  - **Wheel-line**
  - **Surge Irrigation**
- **Cover Crop after barley**
- **Nutrient Management Plan**
- **Reduced Tillage**
- **Advanced Irrigation Water Management**
- **Conservation Cover (pollinator habitat)**

**Rory Karhu**  
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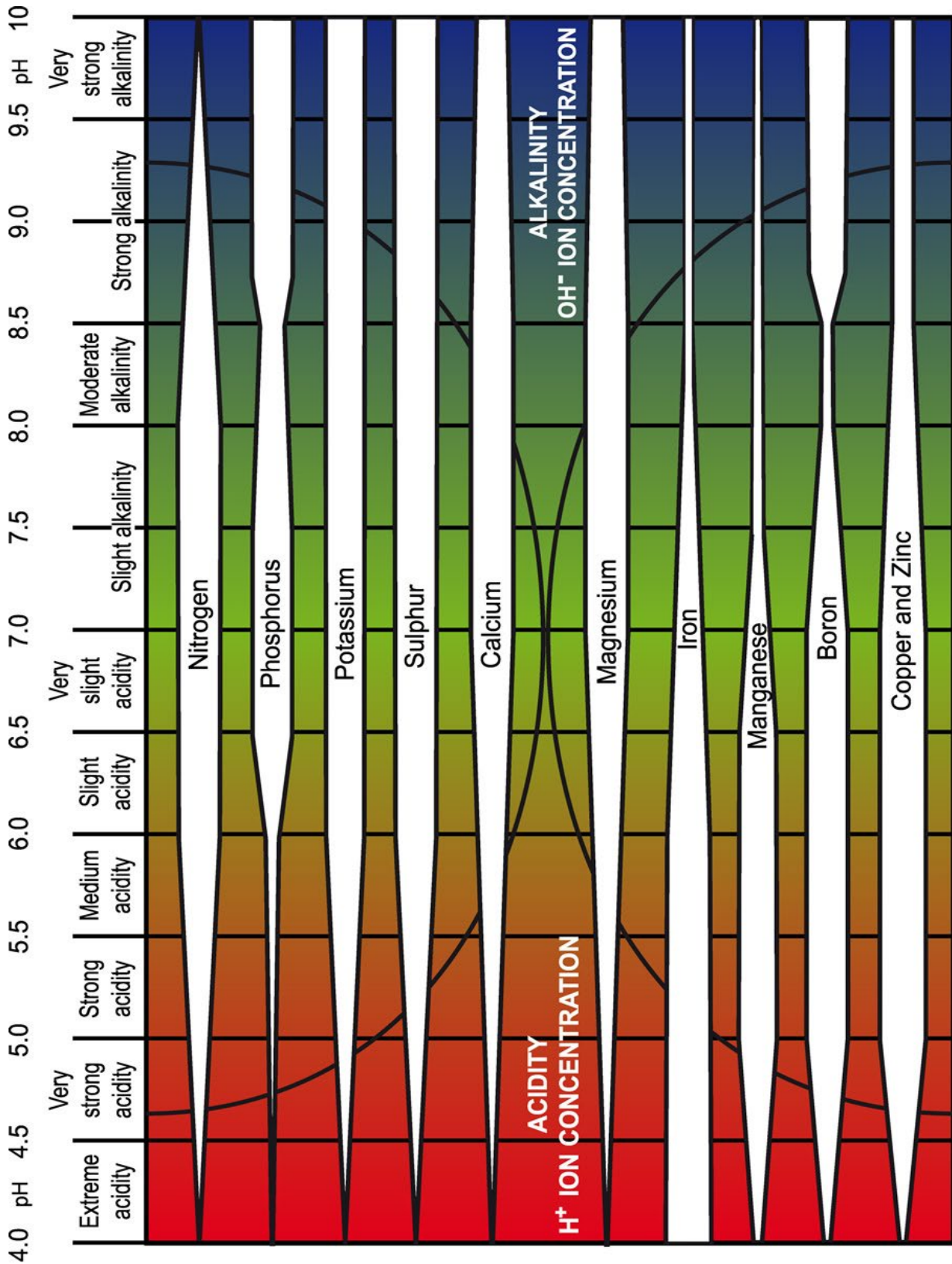
**Natural Resources Conservation Service**

*USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.*



# Appendix:

## How Soil pH Affects Plant Nutrient Availability



## Nutrient Use Spreadsheet for Plants

| Nutrient   | Symbol | Role in Plants                                                                                           | Absorption Form                                 | Normal (ppm) found in Foliage | Deficiency in Plants       | Toxicity           | Deficiency in Symptoms in Plants                                                                                          |
|------------|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Nitrogen   | N      | Amino acids, protein synthesis, nucleic acids                                                            | $\text{NO}_3^-$ , $\text{NH}_4^+$               | 1-4%                          | <1% grasses<br><2% legumes | None               | Chlorosis/yellowing of leaves, stunted growth                                                                             |
| Phosphorus | P      | Utilizes energy from food reserves, used in early life cycle, root formation, nucleic acid               | $\text{H}_2\text{PO}_4^-$ , $\text{HPO}_4^{2-}$ | 0.25-0.5%                     | <0.2%                      | Very low in plants | Purple or reddish leaves and/or stems and stunted growth                                                                  |
| Potassium  | K      | Enzyme activation, winter hardiness, water relations, N uptake and protein synthesis, disease resistance | $\text{K}^+$                                    | 2-4%                          | <1%                        | Low to None        | Spotted leaf tips in alfalfa, reduced cold and disease resistance                                                         |
| Calcium    | Ca     | Pectate and membrane function, cell regulation                                                           | $\text{Ca}^{2+}$                                | 0.5-2.0%                      | <0.0002%                   | Very low in plants | Slowed development and eventual death of apical buds of shoots and roots                                                  |
| Magnesium  | Mg     | Component of chlorophyll, co-factor ATP metabolism                                                       | $\text{Mg}^{2+}$                                | 0.2-0.8%                      | <0.05%                     | Low to None        | Sandy Soils: leaf chlorosis (interveinal areas) while veins remain green                                                  |
| Sulfur     | S      | Sulphydryl groups, amino acids                                                                           | $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$                              | 0.2-0.3%                      | <0.15                      | Very low in plants | Leaf chlorosis, low cysteine, and methionine levels, low vitamin and chlorophyll synthesis, possible nitrate accumulation |
|            |        |                                                                                                          |                                                 |                               |                            |                    |                                                                                                                           |
| Boron      | B      | Amino acids & protein synthesis, nodule formation                                                        | $\text{H}_3\text{BO}_3$                         | 10-50 ppm                     | <10 ppm                    | >75                | Stunted growth, yellowing in young tissue                                                                                 |
| Chlorine   | Cl     | Photosynthetic phosphorylation, charge balance, osmotic pressure.                                        | $\text{Cl}^-$                                   | 500-10,000 ppm                | Not required               | >20,000            | Leaf curling, chlorosis abnormal root growth                                                                              |
| Chromium   | Cr     | Possibly not required                                                                                    | $\text{Cr}^{3+}$ , $\text{Cr}^{6+}$             | 0.2 ppm                       | Not required               | Not present        | None                                                                                                                      |
| Cobalt     | Co     | Nitrogen fixation in alfalfa                                                                             | $\text{CO}^{2+}$                                | 0.05-2 ppm                    | <0.02 ppm                  | Very low in plants | Impaired legume nodulation                                                                                                |
| Copper     | Cu     | Nitrate reduction, photosynthetic electron transfer                                                      | $\text{Cu}^+$ , $\text{Cu}^{2+}$                | 5-15 ppm                      | >5 ppm                     | >20ppm in plants   | None                                                                                                                      |
| Iodine     | I      | Possible minor role in tissue culture                                                                    | $\text{I}^-$                                    | 3 ppm                         | Not required               | None               | None                                                                                                                      |
| Iron       | Fe     | Component of chlorophyll, cytochromes, and enzyme                                                        | $\text{Fe}^{2+}$ , $\text{Fe}^{3+}$             | 50 - 1000 ppm                 | < 35 ppm                   | Very low in plants | Interveinal chlorosis in younger leaves                                                                                   |
| Manganese  | Mn     | Formation of amino acids, chloroplast membrane                                                           | $\text{Mn}^{2+}$                                | 30-300 ppm                    | <20 ppm                    | >500               | None                                                                                                                      |
| Molybdenum | Mo     | Component of nitrate reductases, N fixation                                                              | $\text{MoO}_4^{2-}$                             | 1-100 ppm                     | <0.2 ppm                   | >2000              | Impaired N uptake and metabolism, resulting in N deficiency symptoms                                                      |
| Nickel     | Ni     | Component of urease, nitrogen fixation in legumes                                                        | $\text{Ni}^{2+}$                                | 0.2 - 2 ppm                   | < 0.1 ppm                  | > 30 ppm           | None                                                                                                                      |
| Selenium   | Se     | Possibly not required                                                                                    | $\text{SeO}_3$                                  | 0.15 ppm                      | Not required               | None               | None                                                                                                                      |
| Silicon    | Si     | Not essential/possible role in drought resistance                                                        | $\text{Si(OH)}_4$                               | 400-10,000 ppm                | Not required               | None               | None                                                                                                                      |
| Sodium     | Na     | Not essential but when present acts with K to regulate osmotic pressure and charge balance               | $\text{Na}^+$                                   | 100-200 ppm                   | Not required               | None               | None                                                                                                                      |
| Zinc       | Zn     | Enzymatic activities                                                                                     | $\text{Zn}^{2+}$                                | 10-100 ppm                    | <10                        | >200               | White or stripped leaves                                                                                                  |

Source: Collins, M., Nelson, C. J., Moore, K. J., & Barnes, R. F. (2018). Chapter 12. In *Forages: An introduction to grassland agriculture (7th ed., Vol. 1, pp. 237–243)*. essay, Wiley.

## Nutrient Use Spreadsheet for Animals

|            | Symbol | Role in Animals                                                                                                    | Absorption Form                              | Normal (ppm) found in Foliage | Deficiency in Livestock                                                | Deficiency Symptoms in Animals                                                                                         |
|------------|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Nitrogen   | N      | Protein synthesis                                                                                                  | $\text{NO}_3^-$ , $\text{NH}_4^+$            | 1-4%                          | <1 N:S ratio should not exceed 10:1                                    | Low growth rates, poor production                                                                                      |
| Phosphorus | P      | Skeletal component, energy metabolism, nucleic acids                                                               | $\text{H}_2\text{PO}_4^-$ , $\text{HPO}_4^-$ | 0.25-0.5%                     | <0.1% with a Ca:P ratio between 2:1 and 1:1                            | Unthrifty, poor growth, poor milk production                                                                           |
| Potassium  | K      | Maintain acid-base balance, enzyme reactions, carbohydrate metabolism                                              | $\text{K}^+$                                 | 2-4%                          | <0.9%                                                                  | Rare: but occurs in productive and lactating cattle, reduced intake, weight loss, hair loss, weakness, production loss |
| Calcium    | Ca     | Component of structure (skeleton), blood coagulation, cell regulation                                              | $\text{Ca}^{2+}$                             | 0.5-2.0%                      | <0.4 Desirable C:P ratio is between 2:1 to 1:1                         | Impaired bone growth resulting in slow growth and osteoporosis                                                         |
| Magnesium  | Mg     | Skeleton development, phosphorylation, enzyme activation                                                           | $\text{Mg}^{2+}$                             | 0.2-0.8%                      | <0.1 (0.3) Mg uptake can also be depressed by excessive K and Ca       | Hypomagnesemia                                                                                                         |
| Sulfur     | S      | Present in amino acids, acid-base balance, intracellular constituent, carbohydrate metabolism                      | $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$                           | 0.2-0.3%                      | <0.2 N:S ratio should not exceed 10:1                                  | Low protein synthesis, resulting in slow growth and poor production                                                    |
|            |        |                                                                                                                    |                                              |                               |                                                                        |                                                                                                                        |
| Boron      | B      | Possibly not required                                                                                              | $\text{H}_3\text{BO}_3$                      | 10-50 ppm                     | Very low to none                                                       | Not required                                                                                                           |
| Chlorine   | Cl     | Regulation of extracellular osmotic pressure, maintain acid-base balance.                                          | $\text{Cl}^-$                                | 500-10,000 ppm                | <2,000 ppm                                                             | Anorexia, lethargy, eye defects, reduced respiration, blood in feces                                                   |
| Chromium   | Cr     | Glucose tolerance factor--insulin regulation                                                                       | $\text{Cr}^{3+}$ , $\text{Cr}^{6+}$          | 0.2 ppm                       | Very low to none                                                       | None                                                                                                                   |
| Cobalt     | Co     | Synthesis of vitamin B12 in ruminants                                                                              | $\text{CO}^{2+}$                             | 0.05-2 ppm                    | <0.11 ppm                                                              | Vitamin B12 deficiency, chronic wasting disease, unthriftiness and weight loss                                         |
| Copper     | Cu     | Needed in enzymes and iron metabolism, immune system                                                               | $\text{Cu}^+$ , $\text{Cu}^{2+}$             | 5-15 ppm                      | <0.6 ppm Cu absorption subject to interference from Zn, Mo, S, and Fe  | Loss of hair pigmentation, scours, anemia, reduced immune function                                                     |
| Iodine     | I      | Thyroid gland function                                                                                             | $\text{I}^-$                                 | 3 ppm                         | <0.3 ppm                                                               | Enlarged thyroid, especially in calves                                                                                 |
| Iron       | Fe     | Component of hemoglobin - oxygen transport in the blood, component of cytochromes of the electron transport chain. | $\text{Fe}^{2+}$ , $\text{Fe}^{3+}$          | 50 - 1000 ppm                 | <0.1 (<1.0) ppm                                                        | Rare but can occur in calves: anemia and high mortality due to impaired immune response.                               |
| Manganese  | Mn     | Needed for bone matrix formation                                                                                   | $\text{Mn}^{2+}$                             | 30-300 ppm                    | <15 ppm                                                                | Impaired growth, skeletal abnormalities, poor reproduction, abnormal births                                            |
| Molybdenum | Mo     | Component of metalloenzymes                                                                                        | $\text{MoO}_4^{2-}$                          | 1-100 ppm                     | <1g ppm Mo values exceeding 5-10 ppm can impair Cu uptake in livestock | Deficiency is rare, no consistent symptoms have been found                                                             |
| Nickel     | Ni     | Has been shown to be essential in rats and is assumed to be essential in livestock                                 | $\text{Ni}^{2+}$                             | 0.2 - 2 ppm                   | Very low to none                                                       | Reduced growth, low rumen urease activity in lambs                                                                     |
| Selenium   | Se     | Component of glutathione peroxidase, cell membranes, immune system function                                        | $\text{SeO}_4^{2-}$                          | 0.15 ppm                      | <0.3 ppm May be toxic to livestock above 8.5 ppm                       | White muscle disease                                                                                                   |
| Silicon    | Si     | Mineralization of bones                                                                                            | $\text{Si(OH)}_4$                            | 400-10,000 ppm                | Si values exceeding 0.2% of diet will depress intake                   | Si is so abundant that no deficiency symptoms have been observed                                                       |
| Sodium     | Na     | Acts with K and Cl to balance extra cellular fluid, maintain osmotic pressure, heart and nerve function            | $\text{Na}^+$                                | 100-200 ppm                   | <1,000 (<2,000) ppm                                                    | Licking and chewing, salt craving, urine drinking, unthrifty, rough hair coat                                          |
| Zinc       | Zn     | Activates enzymes, component of metalloenzymes                                                                     | $\text{Zn}^{2+}$                             | 10-100 ppm                    | <4 (<6) ppm                                                            | Reduced feed intake and growth, parakeratosis of skin on head, legs, and neck                                          |

Source: Collins, M., Nelson, C. J., Moore, K. J., & Barnes, R. F. (2018). Chapter 12. In *Forages: An introduction to grassland agriculture* (7th ed., Vol. 1, pp. 237-243). essay, Wiley.

# Estimated Nutrient Removal in Harvested Portion of crops

| Crop           | Unit | lb/bu | N    | P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> | K <sub>2</sub> O | Ca    | Mg   | S    | Fe | Zn     | Mn     | Cu     | B     |
|----------------|------|-------|------|-------------------------------|------------------|-------|------|------|----|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| lbs            |      |       |      |                               |                  |       |      |      |    |        |        |        |       |
| Barley - grain | bu   | 48    | 0.87 | 0.36                          | 0.25             | 0.025 | 0.05 | 0.08 | -  | 0.0015 | 0.0008 | 0.0008 | 0.001 |
| Barley - straw | ton  | -     | 14   | 4.1                           | 30               | 7.6   | 2    | 3.8  | -  | 0.045  | 0.3    | 0.01   | -     |
| Oat - grain    | bu   | 32    | 0.6  | 0.24                          | 0.17             | 0.024 | 0.04 | 0.06 | -  | 0.0006 | 0.001  | 0.0004 | -     |
| Oat - straw    | ton  | -     | 12.2 | 5.8                           | 33               | 0.4   | 4    | 4.6  | -  | 0.145  | -      | 0.015  | -     |
| Wheat - grain  | bu   | 60    | 1.25 | 0.62                          | 0.38             | 0.025 | 0.15 | 0.08 | -  | 0.0035 | 0.002  | 0.0008 | 0.001 |
| Wheat - straw  | ton  | -     | 14.5 | 3.6                           | 25               | 4.4   | 2.2  | 3.7  | -  | 0.03   | 0.11   | 0.007  | -     |

| Crop          | Unit | lb/bu | N    | P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> | K <sub>2</sub> O | Ca    | Mg   | S    | Fe     | Zn    | Mn     | Cu     | B |
|---------------|------|-------|------|-------------------------------|------------------|-------|------|------|--------|-------|--------|--------|---|
| lbs           |      |       |      |                               |                  |       |      |      |        |       |        |        |   |
| Corn - grain  | bu   | 56    | 0.73 | 0.6                           | 0.27             | 0.015 | 0.05 | 0.07 | 0.0055 | 0.001 | 0.0006 | 0.0004 | - |
| Corn - stover | ton  | -     | 19.8 | 8.8                           | 40               | 5.8   | 4.5  | 3.2  | -      | 0.067 | 0.33   | 0.01   | - |
| Corn - silage | ton  | -     | 9.7  | 3.1                           | 7.3              | -     | -    | 1.1  | -      | -     | -      | -      | - |

| Crop    | Unit | N  | P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> | K <sub>2</sub> O | Ca | Mg | S   | Fe   | Zn   | Mn   | Cu   | B    |
|---------|------|----|-------------------------------|------------------|----|----|-----|------|------|------|------|------|
| lbs     |      |    |                               |                  |    |    |     |      |      |      |      |      |
| Alfalfa | ton  | 48 | 11                            | 53               | 28 | 5  | 5.5 | 0.38 | 0.11 | 0.11 | 0.02 | 0.02 |

| Crop    | Unit | N  | P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> | K <sub>2</sub> O | Ca | Mg  | S | Fe | Zn   | Mn   | Cu   | B |
|---------|------|----|-------------------------------|------------------|----|-----|---|----|------|------|------|---|
| lbs/ton |      |    |                               |                  |    |     |   |    |      |      |      |   |
| Grass   | ton  | 25 | 10                            | 38               | 7  | 2.5 | 2 | -  | 0.08 | 0.13 | 0.01 | - |

| Crop      | Unit | N  | P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> | K <sub>2</sub> O | Ca | Mg  | S | Fe | Zn   | Mn   | Cu   | B |
|-----------|------|----|-------------------------------|------------------|----|-----|---|----|------|------|------|---|
| lbs/ton   |      |    |                               |                  |    |     |   |    |      |      |      |   |
| Sugarbeet | ton  | 25 | 10                            | 38               | 7  | 2.5 | 2 | -  | 0.08 | 0.13 | 0.01 | - |

| Crop     | Unit | lb/bu | N | P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> | K <sub>2</sub> O | Ca   | Mg   | S    | Fe   | Zn    | Mn    | Cu     |
|----------|------|-------|---|-------------------------------|------------------|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|--------|
| lbs      |      |       |   |                               |                  |      |      |      |      |       |       |        |
| Dry bean | bu   | 60    | 3 | 0.79                          | 0.92             | 0.18 | 0.06 | 0.52 | 0.03 | 0.004 | 0.002 | 0.0015 |

“Nutrient Uptake & Removal.” *Nutrient Uptake - MSU Extension Soil Fertility* | Montana State University, [landresources.montana.edu/soilfertility/nutuptake.html#corn](http://landresources.montana.edu/soilfertility/nutuptake.html#corn).

# Crop Nutrient Uptake Guide

Pounds of nutrient per production unit

| CROP              | Unit | N     | P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> | K <sub>2</sub> O |
|-------------------|------|-------|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Alfalfa           | tons | 56.60 | 13.30                         | 60.00            |
| Alfalfa Haylage   | tons | 33.48 | 9.11                          | 33.41            |
| Corn Grain        | bu   | 0.90  | 0.37                          | 0.87             |
| Corn Silage       | bu   | 9.00  | 3.10                          | 9.00             |
| Grass Hay         | tons | 40.00 | 12.86                         | 58.80            |
| Wheat (fall dry)  | bu   | 2.00  | 0.75                          | 2.00             |
| Wheat (irrigated) | bu   | 1.70  | 0.70                          | 2.00             |

Bowcutt, Jim, et al. *The Fundamentals of Nutrient Management*, Utah State University Cooperative Extension, Mar. 2011, [extension.usu.edu/agwastemanagement/files/Fundamentals\\_of\\_Nutrient\\_Management\\_2011.pdf](http://extension.usu.edu/agwastemanagement/files/Fundamentals_of_Nutrient_Management_2011.pdf).

## Yield goals used for field crops

| Crop                    |                            | Adjustment Factors lbs. nutrient/ yield unit |                               |                  | Yield Units |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|-------------|
|                         |                            | N                                            | P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> | K <sub>2</sub> O |             |
| <b>Forage</b>           |                            |                                              |                               |                  |             |
|                         | Grass and/or               | 40                                           | 15                            | 35               | T/A         |
|                         | legume                     | 40                                           | 15                            | 40               |             |
| <b>Grains</b>           |                            |                                              |                               |                  |             |
|                         | Corn, ensilage             | 9.0                                          | 3.0                           | 8                | T/A         |
|                         | Shelled corn               | 1.6                                          | 0.6                           | 1.2              | Bu/A        |
|                         | Sorghum, etc. <sup>1</sup> | 9.0                                          | 3.0                           | 8                | T/A         |
|                         | Millet                     | 2.0                                          | 0.6                           | 1.7              | Bu/A        |
|                         | Barley                     | 1.6                                          | 0.7                           | 1.6              | Bu/A        |
|                         | Oats                       | 1.2                                          | 0.5                           | 1.3              | Bu/A        |
|                         | Wheat                      | 1.7                                          | 1.0                           | 2                | Bu/A        |
| <b>Commercial Crops</b> |                            |                                              |                               |                  |             |
|                         | Dry bean                   | N/A                                          | 1.75                          | 4.0              | Cwt/A       |
|                         | Potato                     | 0.5                                          | 0.2                           | 1.0              | Cwt/A       |
|                         | Sugarbeet                  | 9.0                                          | 3                             | 9.0              | T/A         |
|                         | Sunflower                  | 6.0                                          | 2                             | 2.0              | Cwt/A       |

<sup>1</sup> Sorghum, Sudan, or hybrids for ensilage, hay, or pasture

N/A No adjustment

Blaylock, Alan D, et al. "Guide to Wyoming Fertilizer Recommendations." University of Wyoming Cooperative Extension Services, Nov. 1996.