

Determining Crop Nutrient Removal

Accounting for crop nutrient removal is important in making good fertilizer recommendations. There are several sources for estimates of crop nutrient removal including our *Agronomy Handbook*, the Tri-State Recommendations publication and various university research publications.

Having yearly crop nutrient removal information on field basis would allow the evaluation of current management factors. Changing crop genetics and new fertilizer products such as controlled-release nitrogen along with updated management practices have led to significantly increased yields. **Are these genetic and management improvements helping crops be more efficient in terms of nutrient removal, or are increased yields directly increasing nutrient removal?**

Analyzing grain samples from farmer fields can be used to determine crop nutrient removal. **We have developed a Crop Nutrient Removal report (example attached) to easily show crop nutrient removal on a field basis.** Just submit grain samples (one of our soil bags full is appropriate) to us using the attached submittal form. We will then analyze the grain and provide our report showing crop nutrient removal per bushels and per acre.

There will be variation in crop nutrient removal from year to year due to weather, field and other management influences. As with soil testing, the greatest value of nutrient removal information will be to identify trends and establish a range for a particular field or area. **Changes in management should be based on trends and not on a single analysis.**

Please contact us for additional information.

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