

## Frequently Asked Questions: **2024 Truterra<sup>®</sup> Soil Health Assessment**

### **What is the 2024 Truterra<sup>®</sup> soil health assessment?**

The Truterra<sup>®</sup> soil health assessment provides eligible farmers with an evaluation of soil health across their operation. The insights are delivered within the context of local benchmarks, helping farmers understand not only how healthy their soils are, but which practices may contribute to improved soil health as focused on six key indicators:

Aggregate stability, organic carbon, soil compaction, nutrient mineralization potential, potential plant available water holding capacity, and soil pH.

This assessment aims to provide eligible farmers with actionable insights and locally relevant practice change recommendations that may contribute to improved soil health.

### **What is the incentive for eligible farmers participating in the 2024 Truterra<sup>®</sup> soil health assessment?**

Eligible farmers receive the detailed Truterra<sup>®</sup> soil health assessment report and insights.

### **Who can enroll in this program in 2024?**

At this time only fields that were enrolled in the Truterra<sup>®</sup> soil health assessment in 2023 are eligible for re-enrollment in the soil health assessment in 2024.

### **What crops are eligible for the soil health assessment?**

Any crop is eligible if the field was enrolled in the Truterra<sup>®</sup> soil health assessment in 2023.

### **Where is the soil health assessment available?**

Previously enrolled fields in select counties in the following states: IA, IL, IN, KS, MI, MO, MN, NE, WI.

### **What practice change is required to be eligible for the soil health assessment?**

No specific practice change is required for this program.

## **What is the timeline for this program?**

*The below dates are subject to change at Truterra's discretion:*

- The soil health assessment is open for enrollment from December 1, 2023 – February 2, 2024.
- Soil sampling: March 2024 – April 2024.
- Estimated report delivery: August 2024.
- Data collection deadline: December 1, 2024.

## **How long is the commitment?**

There is no reporting tail. The agreement participating farmers will sign is for one single year/season.

## **Is a farmer who participates in the soil health assessment eligible for other Truterra programs?**

Depending on eligibility and program parameters, some fields may be enrolled in this program plus the Truterra® financial assistance – a USDA-supported program or the Cedar River Regional Conservation Partnership Program. Fields must meet eligibility requirements for each program they are enrolled in.

## **What data is required for participation in the soil health assessment?**

Eligible farmers must provide 2024 field management data.

## **Will all farmer fields be sampled?**

Not all fields will be sampled. Soil stratification (zone creation) will be conducted across all enrolled fields. One-third of the enrolled fields are then selected for sampling based on the strata present across all enrolled fields to ensure as many unique soil strata as possible are represented by sampled data. Since farmers participating in 2024 are re-enrolling, the next third of fields will be sampled.

## **Do farmers receive all their soil sampling results?**

Yes. All results from soil health samples will be provided in an appendix to the soil health assessment or via electronic file.

## **What are the soil samples taken for the Truterra® soil health assessment?**

Two samples and one set of in-field measurements are taken at each sample location. A 0–6-inch composite sample is collected to provide data on organic carbon, mineralization potential, clay, pH, and other nutrients. A 0–3-inch intact sample is collected for aggregate stability analysis. A

penetrometer is used in the field to measure soil compaction (resistance) to a depth of up to 20 inches.

### **What is soil stratum, strata, and stratification?**

A soil stratum is the same as a management zone used for fertility management, except it is designed to differentiate and delineate soil into groups of similar soil health and carbon storage potential. Zone creation for fertility management is usually created on a field-by-field basis, whereas stratification is normally created for an entire farm, project area, or geography. Both methods can include multiple soil areas per field.

### **How will farmers receive their soil health assessment?**

Improving soil health and implementing new practices do not happen overnight. That's why Truterra puts the farmer in the driver's seat and works with the farmer's local advisor to deliver the final report. The Truterra® soil health assessment helps provide a framework for the farmer and their local advisor to have a conversation around soil health. It can also help jump-start the development of a multi-year transition plan designed to achieve the farmer's operational goals.

### **Will farmers receive a notification before sampling starts?**

Yes. Samplers organized by Truterra and/or the farmer's local Truterra network provider will notify farmers of expected sampling timing in advance.

### **Is there an opportunity for Truterra network providers to conduct soil health assessment soil sampling?**

Truterra is not structured for retailer self-sampling at this time.