



Agriculture & Food Operations
Agriculture & Food Protection
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NOTICE

TO: Clients of Laboratory Services

From: Steve Tattrie
Acting Director, Animal and Crop Protection

Date: April 6, 2020

CC: Marion MacAulay, Acting Executive Director, Agriculture Food Operations Branch
Rick Hoeg, Acting Manager, Animal and Crop Services
Lori Scott, Technical Laboratory Supervisor

RE: **Analytical Laboratory Services, Soil Testing for Registered Farms**

Dear clients,

In response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the agri-food industry is recognized in Nova Scotia as an essential service. To ensure quality crop yields and environmental protection, the NSDA Animal and Plant Lab will be providing soil testing to Registered Farms during these critical times moving into the 2020 growing season. Please limit the number of samples submitted at one time to those required for this planting season so that we can prioritize our services.

This decision was made with the current COVID-19 (<https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/>) orders and the health and safety of our clients and staff in mind.

Please Note: In order to follow public health orders to promote social distancing and minimize people in our buildings, all soil samples must be submitted to the lab using a courier service.

Samples must be shipped to:

Laboratory Services
176 College Road
Truro, NS B2N 2P3

For public health and safety reasons there will be a minimal number of staff on-site working and following social distancing protocols. For this reason, turnaround times may be delayed.

Soil samples will be accepted effective today April 6, 2020 with testing scheduled to begin the week of April 14, 2020.

The situation with COVID-19 continues to change rapidly, and the continuation of this testing is subject to the COVID-19 orders and can change at any time. We will continue to update you with any changes to laboratory services as soon as they become available.

Please contact the laboratory with any questions: Email: LabServices@novascotia.ca or Phone: 902-893-6565

Sincerely,

Steve Tattrie
Acting Director, Animal and Crop Protection