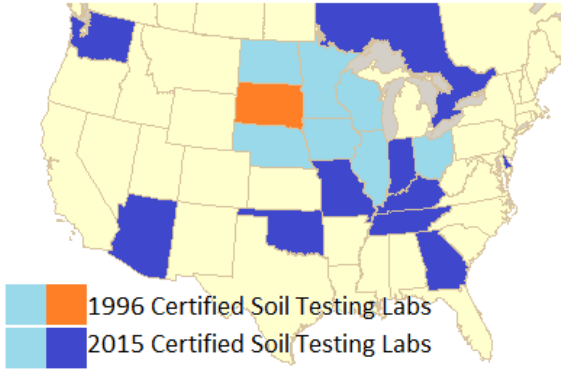



<p><b>Program Description</b></p> <p>The Minnesota Department of Agriculture’s (MDA) Certified Soil Testing Laboratory Program actively promotes the use of laboratory soil testing and helps laboratories maintain quality assurance.</p>	<p><b>History</b></p> <p>Farmers rely on soil laboratory tests to determine appropriate fertilizer rates required to meet crop needs. Recognizing the importance of accurate laboratory testing, the MDA began a laboratory soil certification program in the early 1990’s.</p>
<p><b>Performance</b></p> <p>Laboratory participation has increased over time, and we have noted reduced variability (improved accuracy) in laboratory results.</p>	<p><b>Program Customers</b></p> <p>Laboratories, farmers, crop consultants, government agencies, and environmental organizations.</p>
<p><b>Geographic Expansion of this Program</b></p>  <p> <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: orange; border: 1px solid black;"></span> 1996 Certified Soil Testing Labs  <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: blue; border: 1px solid black;"></span> 2015 Certified Soil Testing Labs         </p>	<p><b>Our Special Partner</b></p>  <p>The MDA relies on soil proficiency samples prepared by the Agricultural Laboratory Proficiency (ALP) Program.</p> <p><b>What is the Catch?</b></p> <p>There is no obligation to have MDA evaluate your laboratory for certification. Just return the ALP release form and your laboratory will receive a report in November showing how your lab’s results for the past year compared with the other lab’s results in our program. Labs meeting MDA certification requirements are invited to become certified. This is optional, and the certification fee is \$100.00. Certification runs from January 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>.</p>
<p><b>Make it Easy for Your Customers to Find You!</b></p> <p>We certify more soil and manure laboratories than any other program. Internet search engines typically display our website on the first page of search results for “soil labs” or “manure labs.”</p> <p><b>Certified Soil Testing Laboratories</b>  <a href="http://www2.mda.state.mn.us">www2.mda.state.mn.us</a> &gt; ... &gt; Licensing ▾          Laboratories certified for soil testing by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture.</p>	<p><b>Would you like more information?</b></p> <p>Jerry Floren          Minnesota Department of Agriculture          422 Belgrade Avenue          Suite 104          North Mankato, MN 56003-3874</p> <p>Phone: 507-344-3206    Email: <a href="mailto:jerry.floren@state.mn.us">jerry.floren@state.mn.us</a></p>