

Soil Sampling RFP FAQ:

Will there be advanced notification/communication with enrolled farmers when field activities will occur on their land?

- Yes. Upon enrollment, participating farmers agreed to allow the selected soil sampling contractor to access their fields. Once fields are selected for sampling, NFWF will notify the enrolled farmers and the relevant [state technical assistance \(TA\) providers](#), who serve as the farmers' primary point of contact for the program. TA providers will inform the farmers that sampling will be conducted on their farm and will help coordinate with the selected soil sampling contractor.

Was access to the fields (i.e. parking proximity) considered when selecting locations within fields?

- NFWF and FSH have not yet selected the fields to be sampled. We will take into consideration the accessibility (adjacency to public roads and parking) when designing the sampling plan.

What deliverables will be expected as part of the reporting process during and after sampling each year and at the conclusion of the project?

- NFWF will hold regular check-in meetings with the sampling contractor in the lead up to and during the sampling season. NFWF expects the contractor to informally on their progress against deliverables and any challenges during these meetings.

What QA/QC requirements are included as part of the sampling protocol?

- Please follow [Soil Health Institute's Soil Health Sampling Standard Operating Procedure](#) for QA/QC requirements. The [SHI Standard Measurement Methods](#) provide QA/QC requirements for laboratory analyses.

Does this project require a government contract?

- No. The agreement will be between NFWF and the soil sampling contractor, but the project will be supported with federal funds (CFDA 10.937) as a subcontract under NFWF's USDA Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities project (Award NR233A750004G003).

What is the total number of samples required per state?

- The number of samples per state is dependent upon Fall 2024 program enrollment. Contractors should be prepared to sample across the entire 20-state geography, as we'd like to collect samples from a variety of cropping systems, soil types, and MLRAs. However, we anticipate that sampling volume will mirror enrollment density. In the first program year, most enrollments were concentrated in the "Corn Belt" states.

How will the soil sample site locations be provided to service providers? Will it be in shapefile format, Lat/Lon, or GPS coordinates?

- NFWF will provide field boundaries, with sampling points, in shapefile or geoJSON format to the soil sampling contractor 4-6 weeks prior to anticipated sampling start dates.

Will digital field boundaries be provided for each sample site?

- Yes, digital field boundaries with sampling points will be provided in shapefile or geoJSON format for each sampling site.

Do you have recommendations for sourcing a 7.5cm x 30cm soil probe? Would it be possible to use 2" x 12" core probes, commonly used for bulk density samples, instead of the 7.5cm diameter ones? Using a single probe for the full 30cm core is more efficient and cost-effective, minimizing compaction and reducing the need to drive the probe twice at each sample site.

- You can source 7.5cm x 30cm soil probes from AMS (SKU 404.45) and other vendors. We are following Soil Health Institute's SOP and prefer 3 inch bulk density cores, but smaller probes are acceptable as long as the target mass (~1L) of the soil is collected. The important thing to note is that bulk density samples cover 0-15cm and 15-30-cm soil depth.