**NCERA-013 Yearly Report**

**For October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025**

**Meeting Date: February 4, 2025**

**Radisson Hotel and Conference Center, Coralville, IA**

**Meeting Minutes**

**State Reports:**

* Indiana
  + Trying to fill Jim Camberato’s position
  + State reevaluating extension budgeting
* Nebraska
  + Richard Ferguson is still on the faculty
  + Expecting to replace Laila Puntel’s position as soon as possible
  + Looking to update or sunset extension publications
  + Sufficiency-based recommendations are still the philosophy used, but possibly looking to crop removal (build and maintain?) based approach
  + Updated N recommendation philosophy to be prescriptive rather than predictive
* Ohio
  + OSU service lab: 6,500 samples in 2024 (slightly lower)
  + ~50 plant and soil samples
  + Ammonium acetate K and Bray P1 offering
  + Getting requests for Mehlich-3 analysis
  + Used campus funding to purchase some updated equipment
  + Manbir:
    - Running field trials right now
    - Getting questions on the build-up P&K recs
    - A lot of interest around sulfur
    - Extension systems is doing well
* North Dakota
  + Soil testing lab – NDSU lab closed as of January 2025
  + Looking towards updating P recommendations for ND
  + Four new soil science hires in the past year
* Wisconsin
  + Soil and Forage Analysis Lab (Stammer)
    - Busy lab year with research samples
    - Updated AA equipment and ICP to run routine analysis for soil and plant analysis
    - Combustion analyzer upgraded
    - Micronutrient project ongoing to replace older methods (phosphoric acid and HCl) with DTPA or Mehlich-3
    - Staff: 2 chemists, three technicians (5 total)
    - Sample volume is more research than farmers
  + Ruark-Extension
    - Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Program trial program collects PPNT, PSNTs
    - Looking to update A2809 (recommendations document)
    - Looking to increase capacity of regional extension staff to integrate with soil fertility efforts
    - Natasha Rayne joined the faculty and has manure, nitrogen, and sensor research program
    - Steven Hall – extension water quality program joined faculty from Iowa State
  + Jones
    - New P&K interpretation and recommendations for corn, soybean, and corn silage
    - P tests [Bray, Mehlich-3 (color & ICP)]
      * Olsen & H3A, but won’t be used for recommendations
    - K tests [Bray, ammonium acetate, Mehlich-3 (ICP)]
    - Field correlation and field calibration from recent work (2021-2024)
    - Increases in interpretation class ranges, wider optimum class
* Iowa
  + No news on the replacement of a soil fertility specialist faculty position
  + No large news of soil testing updates in Iowa
  + P&K interpretations in PM1688 updated in 2023
  + Interest in a new IA soil testing lab proficiency program
  + Expecting new department head in summer 2025
  + Iowa N-fact tool was released related to N recommendations
* Missouri
  + Rasel replaced Manjula in 2024
  + Rasel directs the soil testing lab and soil health assessment center
    - Soil testing lab
      * 35-45K samples per year (2024 was lower; 25K soil and rest water, manure, tissue)
      * Bray-1 P, ammonium acetate K, salt pH
      * Offering all micronutrients, total nutrients,
      * Switching to Mehlich-3 for all nutrients soon (next few years)
    - SHAC
      * 12-15K per year (high value and margin samples)
      * Working on turnaround time for complicated and multi-test soil health tests
      * Wanting to assess QA/QC for specialty tests
      * Mostly research samples
      * MO conservation districts offer a cost share program and all samples go to the SHAC
      * Ongoing work with NRCS
      * Offering different packages for soil health at different prices that fit to research projects
  + Rasel’s appointment has research and extension responsibilities
  + New N recommendations developing (including biologicals) led by Kelly Nelson
  + Delta Lab still up and running and Rasel might be running administratively
  + All labs ideally under the same umbrella. Ideally to combine them.
* Illinois
  + Efforts working on P&K calibration (long-term trials established 2024)
  + Tillage x placement x timing with an emphasis on build up and drawdowns
  + On-farm N trials (30-50/year) across state support annual updates to the IL corn N recommendations. Plan to update corn N rate calculator data each year.
  + Lime incubations have begun and field trials in 2025 to calibrate Sikora for IL
  + Andrew Margenot has on-farm P&K omission trials started
    - Streambank erosion work
    - Stable isotope N, P, S
* Kansas
  + Soil testing lab is increasing in volume (60K samples: ½ soil)
  + Farmer samples are decreasing a bit
  + Increase in research samples
  + Hired one additional technician last year
  + Updates to equipment: LICO (2) running full time; skalar pH robot running; newer ICP to share with soil chem group (plan to have their own soon)
  + Faculty updates: 3 hired in 2024 (two area agronomists & precision Ag)
  + Open positions: range management and field crops specialist
  + Dean of COA is retiring
  + ◦ Agricultural innovation initiative
    - New facilities for many departments
  + Soil testing lab potentially moving to be more involved in water testing and water quality lab
  + Updated recommendations last year:
    - Changes in nitrogen
      * Coefficients changed to yield goal based N guidance
    - Small changes to P&K
    - Likely new P recommendations this year or next year
      * Higher critical levels expected
    - Restructure the documents to be able to update
* Minnesota
  + Maintain soil testing lab (public)
    - Mostly homeowner samples
    - Internal service is large volume
    - Price changes due to salary equity changes on campus
  + Focus research recently on potassium
  + Leading regional NRCS CIG with focus on phosphorus
  + Phosphorus work continues to focus on
    - Bray, Olsen, and working with Mehlich-3

**Chair Selection**

* + Two-year rotations
  + Follow the federal fiscal year (Sept. 30-Sept. 30)
  + Illinois next chair (John, 2025-2027)
  + Secretary (Dorivar, 2025-2027)

**Subcommittee Re-establishment**

* + - Education subcommittee (Dan lead): lead the planning for the workshop
    - Publications subcommittee (John lead): focus on 233 Publication “North Central Soil Testing Recommendations”
      * Phosphorus chapter: Antonio and Andrew Stammer
      * Need to review all chapters and create list – John will send in early March
    - Website subcommittee (Dorivar lead): update and manage interaction with PAQ
  + Need NCERA-13 website for the committee
    - Work with PAQ
    - Dorivar getting a quote from PAQ about the website in preparation for the next workshop
* Joint workshop with MASTPAWG and SERA-6 is every two years
* Next NCERA-13 workshop in February 2027
* Project Renewal
  + Need to be submitted in 2025 (John)
  + Need to focus on publications and updates
* Andrew Stammer is NAPT rep from NCERA-13 committee

The next committee meeting will be at the North Central Soil Fertility meeting in Des Moines.

Adjourn

**Future Plans**

The NCERA013 committee will be up for renewal at the end of 2025. Our major work for the committee will be to prepare for the renewal. There are a few action items identified at the last meeting. First, as stated above we need to assign chapters to the new members prior to the next meeting to start the process of reviewing the methods suggested in the manual. Second, there was some discussion from the committee of developing a website for the committee. John Jones was planning to look into the cost for the development of a website to house the NCR223 publication and outline research from the cooperating Northcentral States. The USDA-CIG grant will be a centerpiece of collaboration in the region.