

NECC-1312 2016 Meeting minutes

Tuesday, July 19, 2016, 3:30-5:30 PM at the regional soil test work group meeting (Penn State)

Attending: Olivia Saunders, UNH; Tom Morris, Dawn Pettinelli, Deb Tyser, UConn; Karen Gartley, Amy Shober, UDel; Eugenia Pena-Yewtukhiw, UWVa; Michael Rotzke, Cornell; Don Ross, UVM; Doug Beegle, John Spargo (chair), Penn State; Bruce Hoskins, UMaine, Tim Hoerner, Agri Analysis.

1. Introductions
2. Discussion about soil health testing (as a follow-up to the discussion at the joint meeting)
  - J.S. NRCS is encouraging it and people want it, therefore we should help improve it.
  - M.R. It is labor intensive, Cornell has a 2-3 week turn-around.
  - J.S. Critical that, if we offer it, we all use the same methods. Are SOPs available?
  - M.R. Samples could be sent to Cornell until other labs get a critical mass.
  - B.H. Cornell, Maine and Woods End are all evolving methods (differently). Maine ran 600+ Solvita tests last year.
  - Discussion ensued about CO<sub>2</sub> methods.
  - D.B. It may be premature to be able to make recommendations based on soil health tests. We need to become involved in further developments and provide input into NRCS practices that are being proposed.
  - E.P.-Y. Labs need standardized procedures. As a region, we should find funding to develop recommendations based on some simple tests, e.g. POXC, OM, aggregate stability, CO<sub>2</sub> burst.
  - J.S. Biology is transient. Perhaps other variables, such as pH (the Master Variable), can be used to explain biology. The PSNT is a biological test.
  - Meta-analysis? Regional approach? Need NRCS rfps to develop recs.
  - J.S., D.B. Soil test nutrient calibrations are also needed.
  - M.R. Cornell soil health test is targeted towards degraded soils (that may have good nutrient status). It addresses abusive practices.
  - A.S. SERA-17 addressed similar types of issues with a sub-group that produced a white paper
  - ACTION: Work with other soil test groups to develop an open letter to the NRCS on soil health testing. SERA-6 is leading. Tom Morris and John Spargo will represent NECC-1312.
3. Crop removal of P update. D.R. reported that Vermont was in the process of updating their crop removal values and asked about other states. D.B. reported that Pennsylvania had recently adjusted their corn silage P removal downwards from 5 lbs P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> / ton to 4 lbs. Greg Binford revised P values for Delaware in 2008.
4. Should we provide a table of ICP wavelengths as a new appendix for our manual? It would be helpful if we include a brief explanation of why the specific wavelengths were chosen (or others not used).
5. Updates for the appendices on methods and NECC-1312 representatives will be done by Karen Gartley.
6. NAPT Organizing Committee. John Spargo recently started a 2-year term as our representative. NAPT has obtained lots more eastern samples in the past few years.

7. State reports (in brief)
  - Cornell—numbers up, budget surplus
  - WV—soil testing still free but now also being offered by a state agency. Lab is moving on July 21<sup>st</sup>!
  - Maine—numbers up
  - PA—numbers up
  - Conn—launched new software July 1<sup>st</sup>! Now uses AI for P recs!! [48 states left to go.]
  - NH—numbers up, updated database, now sending soil test reminders to customers after 2 yrs.
  - VT—numbers up
8. 2017 NECC-1312 meeting will be in Milford, PA on Tues/Weds October 3-4, 2017 from noon to noon. The exact location will probably be the same as last time. Vermont will chair.

Minutes taken by Don Ross