

## General Q&A about Agricultural Samples

### FARMER SAMPLES

1. Where can I bring my samples now that the New Brunswick Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries (DAAF) Agricultural Lab (also known as the *Soils Lab*) has been closed? (i.e. soil, livestock feed, plant tissue, manure, compost, nutrient solution, etc)

- All farmers may bring samples to a regional DAAF office or Head Office as has been the practice in the past. The samples will now be sent to PEI Analytical Laboratories (PEIAL) to be analyzed for farmers who request this service. PEIAL will then send an invoice for the analysis fee(s). The PEIAL address for your box of samples is:

PEI Analytical Laboratories (RECEPTION DESK)  
Soil and Feed Testing  
23 Innovation Way – BioCommons  
Charlottetown, PEI C1E 0B7  
Telephone: (902) 620-3300

- If you would like to send samples directly to PEIAL yourself, please use the address above.
- The following DAAF offices will accept agricultural samples for shipment to PEIAL: Fredericton, St. George, Wicklow, Grand Falls/Saint-André, Bathurst, Tracadie-Sheila, Miramichi, Bouctouche, Moncton, and Sussex. DAAF office locations are available [on-line](http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/10/contacts/dept_renderer.137.html), at the following address: [http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/10/contacts/dept\\_renderer.137.html](http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/10/contacts/dept_renderer.137.html)

2. May I bring ALL my samples to a DAAF office?

- Most soil, livestock feed, plant tissue, manure, compost, or nutrient solution samples may be brought to a DAAF office for shipment to PEIAL. There are a few exceptions, however:
  - Soil samples for *mechanical analysis* (for crops other than cranberries) will be shipped by DAAF to the UNB Lab for Forest Soils & Environmental Quality. PEIAL only does this test for cranberries.
  - For samples that require the former DAAF lab's *compost germination test*, contact Pat Toner, DAAF at (506) 453-2108.
  - For samples that require the former DAAF lab's *Hagberg Index/ Falling numbers & milling protein test*, contact, Pat Toner or Peter Scott, DAAF at (506) 453-2108.

3. Do I have to pay to ship my samples for analysis?
  - Farmers, who choose to use the PEI Analytical Laboratories, may ship samples from a regional DAAF office with no shipment charges.
  - If you send the samples directly to PEIAL or choose to use another lab, you then ship the samples and pay the shipping charges.
4. When can I bring my samples to a DAAF office?
  - Ideally, bring samples to a DAAF office on Monday (anytime), Tuesday (anytime) or Wednesday (by noon). This will allow for shipment and then arrival of samples before the weekend. Particularly during holiday periods, regardless of which lab you ship samples to, it is advisable to first confirm the lab's hours of operation.
5. To send my samples from a DAAF office, what else should I bring?
  - You should bring the [PEIAL sample submission forms](#), preferably already filled in. NOTE: On the PEIAL [soil sample analysis request form](#), NB farmers should check off "NO" in the box "Forward Results to Agriculture Nutrient Management".
  - All samples should be labeled. It is preferable to send soil samples in white soil sample bags (as plastic bags could sweat if left in a hot vehicle). Manure samples must be FROZEN and in plastic containers. Feed samples and plant tissue samples should be in paper bags.
  - Especially during the summer months, you should bring a frozen freezer pack and even a Styrofoam cooler for some types of plant tissues.
6. How do I know what test to ask for?
  - A list of analyses provided by PEIAL (plus the fees) is available [on-line](#), at <http://www.gov.pe.ca/agriculture/index.php3?number=74144&lang=E> .
  - A [table](#) has been prepared to show the similarities between analyses and packages used by the PEIAL and the former DAAF lab, <http://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/10/pdf/Agriculture/NBDAAF-PEIAL.pdf> .
7. I heard that my neighbour got a volume discount on fees from PEIAL. Can I get that too?
  - If you send samples to PEIAL, there is a volume discount (25%) available for 50 samples or more billed to the same address in one calendar year. For details, contact PEIAL at (902) 620-3300.
8. How do I take a sample? Sampling procedures are available on the DAAF site as follows:
  - [Soil Sampling Procedures](#)
  - [Plant Tissue Sampling Procedures](#)

- [Livestock Manure Sampling Procedures](#) - NOTE: Manure MUST be in PLASTIC containers and MUST be FROZEN. Pressure build-up may cause glass containers to explode.

9. Where can I get soil sample bags?

- You may continue to pick up soil sample bags at the DAAF offices (listed in #1) or through your agri-environmental club coordinator (if applicable).

10. I used to get soil nutrient recommendations with my soil sample results. Will I still get that if I use PEIAL?

- DAAF staff have worked with PEIAL so that soil sample recommendations provided to NB farmers will be appropriate to NB conditions.
- Fertilizer nutrient recommendations are available to NB farmers if one of the following crops is indicated on the sample submission form:
  - barley,
  - broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, general cole crop,
  - buckwheat,
  - corn – Specify whether *silage, grain* or *sweet corn*,
  - fall/winter rye,
  - forages (less than 50% legumes) or forages (50% or greater legumes),
  - grain (any underseeded),
  - oats,
  - potatoes - Specify the variety and if for seed production,
  - raspberries – Specify whether *new* or *established*,
  - turfgrass,
  - wheat – Specify whether *spring, winter* or *milling*. If nothing is specified then *spring wheat* will apply.

11. The PEIAL report looks different than I was used to. Who can help me understand what it means?

- The lab reports may be laid out a bit differently, but all the same information is there. Agriculture staff at DAAF offices continue to be available to help you with the interpretation of sample results.

12. I've been taking soil samples regularly from my farm for years. I thought I knew roughly what my soil organic matter was. Suddenly my results from PEIAL are a lot higher.

- The DAAF lab used the Walkley – Black method to measure soil organic matter, and PEIAL uses the Leco method. Results from the Leco method may be about 25% higher than the Walkley-Black method. For example, if you got 2.5% o.m. before, you might receive a result of 3.1%.

13. Some of my other soil results are different than they used to be. Why?

- Some of the units used on the PEIAL soil report are different from those used formerly by the DAAF lab. Although phosphorus and potassium are still reported in ppm, PEIAL bases this on phosphate ( $P_2O_5$ ) instead of straight phosphorus (P), and on potash ( $K_2O$ ) instead of potassium (K). Conversion factors are provided at the bottom of the PEIAL report.
- *Buffer pH* that was on the DAAF soils report is now call *lime index* on the PEIAL report.
- The PEIAL soil report includes values for a *Ca/Mg ratio* plus a *% H base saturation*.

14. I want my Agrologist to get a copy of the results. How can I do this?

- You may continue to have a DAAF staff member, other Agrologist or agri-environmental club coordinator receive a copy of your results by including their NAME AND CONTACT information in the box COPY TO.

15. When can I expect to receive my results?

- Once the PEIAL receives your samples, the turn-around-time for results should be similar to when samples went to the NB Agricultural Lab.

## NON FARMER SAMPLES

I am not a farmer. Where can I send a soil sample from my garden or my lawn?

- [PEIAL](#) will accept and process samples from non-farmers. If you wish to send your samples to PEIAL, you are responsible for sending and paying for your own samples. You will be invoiced for the analysis fee later.
- Non-farmers may also wish to contact their local garden centre for soil test kits or other options.