



### What is the benefit to producers?

Results from the study will be pooled by zone and crop and presented in a final report. Once the results are compiled, **volunteers will be provided with soil results from their own fields.** Results are aimed to increase nutrient use efficiency and help producers take advantage of their high-value nutrients.

### Who are the partners in the study?

A team of representatives from the BC Ministry of Agriculture, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and the BC Agriculture Council are partnering in this study. All of the volunteers are partners in the study as well, since the project would not be possible without their involvement.

### What regions and crops are included?

Geographic zones of interest include West Delta, Mt. Lehman/Bradner, South Abbotsford, West Sumas, Sumas, and East Chilliwack.

Crops of interest are forage grass, forage corn, annual vegetables, nursery/turf, raspberries, and blueberries.



**For information regarding the Fraser Valley Soil Nutrient Study, or if you would like to become involved, please contact:**

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Funding provided by *Growing Forward*—  
a federal-provincial-territorial initiative.

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# FRASER VALLEY SOIL NUTRIENT STUDY 2012



**BECOME INVOLVED!**

# FRASER VALLEY SOIL NUTRIENT STUDY 2012 — BE A VOLUNTEER!

## What is the purpose of the study?

In 2005 soil samples were collected from farming systems across the Fraser Valley to obtain baseline soil nutrient data. Results showed a need to monitor nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium (N,P,K) accumulations in the soil. The 2012 study is designed to reassess soil nutrient status in comparison to the data recorded in 2005. **The key objective is to determine the residual N-P-K status of soils in six geographic zones of the Fraser Valley.**

## Project Details

Sampling will begin in September 2012 from 170-200 fields representing the key crops grown in the valley. Composite soil samples will be collected by hand (0-15, 15-30,30-60cm) in triplicate. The samples will be run for available N,P,K using conventional soil analysis methods.

**Results will help evaluate the effectiveness of Nutrient Management Plans within the Canada-British Columbia Environmental Farm Plan Program**, and are part of a long-term strategy to monitor agri-environmental indicators.

## What is involved in volunteering?

Growers interested in efficient nutrient management are encouraged to apply. Participants will allow technicians to enter their field(s) and collect soil samples (low disturbance), following appropriate biosecurity protocols. Volunteers will be asked to respond to a questionnaire to get background information on the field being sampled and on general nutrient management practices. **One of the key principles of the project is that participation is voluntary and individual results will be kept confidential.**



## Frequently Asked Questions

- Q. When will the study take place?
- A. Soil sampling will be conducted from late-August to mid-October. The soil scientists and technicians will remain flexible to work with participants and their cropping schedules to minimize disturbance of daily activities.
- Q. Will the study be on-going?
- A. Samples will be taken only once in the fall of 2012. This is a follow-up study to one conducted in 2005, and therefore a future repeat study is possible but not mandatory.
- Q. If I participate in the study am I required to complete a Canada-BC Environmental Farm Plan (EFP)?
- A. No. Participation in the EFP program is encouraged but completely voluntary. If you would like more information on the EFP please visit: <http://www.bcefp.ca/>