

## CORN STALK NITRATE TEST



The end-of-season cornstalk test is a good tool for evaluating nitrogen (N) management practices used in any corn field in any year. The test is most valuable when used on fields that show no visual signs of N deficiency.

### SAMPLING INSTRUCTIONS

#### When to Sample:

Best time to sample is between 1 and 3 weeks after black layers have formed on 80% of the kernels.

#### What part to sample:

Sample the 8-inch segment, 6 inches off the ground. Remove leaf sheaths from the segment.

#### How much sample:

Collect fifteen 8-inch segments at random\*\* within an area not larger than 10 acres to form a single sample to send for analysis.

#### Shipping:

Place samples in the stalk nitrate sample bag. Send samples within a day of sampling to prevent molding.

#### Supplies:

Visit <https://mylab.midwestlabs.com/> or Call (402) 334-7770 to order samples bags and shipping label.

### RESULTS

Stalk nitrate-N concentrations can be divided into three categories: low, optimal, and excess.

#### Low: less than 700 ppm N

This indicated high probability that greater availability of N would have resulted in higher yield.

Concentrations in this range, however, give little indication of the magnitude of yield increase that might be expected from more available N.

#### Optimal: 700 to 2000 ppm N

This indicated high probability that N availability was within the range

needed to maximize profits for the producer.

#### Excess: greater than 2000 ppm N

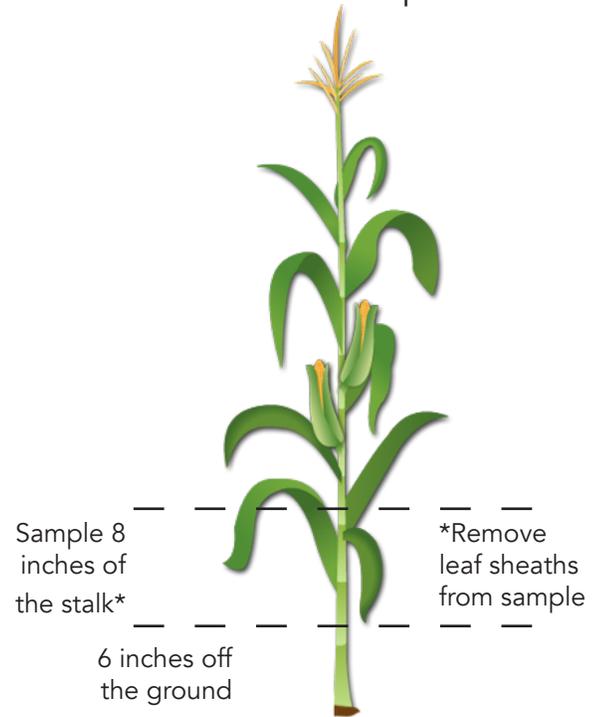
This indicates high probability that N availability was greater than when fertilizer N was applied at rates that maximize profits for producers.

### CONTACTS

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**\$16** per sample



NOTE: Do not sample stalks that have been damaged by disease or insects.