

## **C2021-0033-Y2: New Brunswick Forage 4R Nutrient Stewardship**

The objectives of the project are to engage producers to use a 4R nutrient stewardship approach to forage production and determine the cost to grow a tonne of high-quality forage on NB livestock farms.

### **Project Deliverable(s):**

- Compare forage yields using a farms standard practice to a 4R approach
- Compare forage quality using a farms standard practice to a 4R approach
- Compare the COP of a farms standard practice to a 4R approach
- Determine an average COP for a tonne of high quality forage on NB livestock farms.

New Brunswick Forage 4R Nutrient Stewardship – 4R fertilizer recommendations were provided to the six co-operators in the spring of 2021. Each co-operator was responsible for applying the prescribed rate to the appropriate side of the trial field. NBSCIA staff collected yield measurements and samples for quality analysis at the time of first and second harvest.

Dry matter yields varied between sites (Figure 1) but tended to favor the 4R treatment. When averaged across sites, there was 1.8 MT/ha of dry matter advantage with the 4R program. Since several factors contribute to yield, the research team will need to collect background information on the stand (ex. type of species and age of the stand) and examine the soil nutrient status of each site to fully understand the yield variation between sites and the fertilizer programs.

A simple cost comparison between the 4R program and the farms standard practice is shown in Figure 2. A modest value for the forage was assumed (10 cents per dry matter pound, the value used for the 2021 Hay West program).

When averaged across sites, there was virtually no difference in the cost of the two programs.

It should be noted that the ROI shown for the Chignecto and Kings locations may be a bit skewed. A manure application was not account for at the Chignecto site which would have decreased the cost for fertilizer for the 4R treatment and improved the ROI. Due to a management change at the Kings site, a second fertilizer application was not made which should have been, and this would have decreased the ROI at this site. It is thought that if these slight changes had been made, that the average ROI would have stayed approximately the same.

## **C2021-0033-Y2: Gestion des éléments nutritifs 4R du Nouveau-Brunswick**

Les objectifs du projet sont d'inciter les producteurs à utiliser une approche de gérance des nutriments 4R pour la production de fourrage et de déterminer le coût de la culture d'une tonne de fourrage de haute qualité dans les fermes d'élevage du Nouveau-Brunswick.

### **Livrable(s) du projet:**

- \* Comparer les rendements fourragers en utilisant une pratique standard des fermes à une approche 4R
- \* Comparer la qualité du fourrage en utilisant une pratique standard des fermes à une approche 4R
- \* Comparer la COP d'une pratique standard des fermes à une approche 4R
- \* Déterminer un COP moyen pour une tonne de fourrage de haute qualité dans les fermes d'élevage du N.-B.

Intendance des éléments nutritifs du fourrage 4R du Nouveau-Brunswick - Les recommandations sur les engrais 4R ont été fournies aux six coopératives au printemps 2021. Chaque coopérateur était responsable d'appliquer le taux prescrit du côté approprié du champ d'essai. Le personnel de l'AASCNB a recueilli des mesures de rendement et des échantillons pour l'analyse de la qualité au moment de la première et de la deuxième récolte.

Les rendements en matière sèche variaient entre les sites (Figure 1), mais tendaient à favoriser le traitement 4R. Lorsqu'on fait la moyenne entre les sites, il y avait un avantage de 1,8 MT/ha de matière sèche avec le programme 4R. Étant donné que plusieurs facteurs contribuent au rendement, l'équipe de recherche devra recueillir des informations générales sur le peuplement (ex. type d'espèce et âge du peuplement) et examiner l'état nutritif du sol de chaque site pour bien comprendre la variation du rendement entre les sites et les programmes d'engrais.

Une comparaison simple des coûts entre le programme 4R et la pratique courante des fermes est illustrée à la figure 2. Une valeur modeste pour le fourrage a été supposée (10 cents par livre de matière sèche, la valeur utilisée pour le programme Hay West 2021).

En faisant la moyenne entre les sites, il n'y avait pratiquement aucune différence dans le coût des deux programmes.

Il convient de noter que le retour sur investissement indiqué pour les emplacements Chignecto et Kings peut être un peu biaisé. Un épandage de fumier n'a pas été comptabilisé sur le site de Chignecto, ce qui aurait diminué le coût de l'engrais pour le traitement 4R et amélioré le retour sur investissement. En raison d'un changement de gestion sur le site de Kings, une deuxième application d'engrais n'a pas été effectuée, ce qui aurait dû l'être, ce qui aurait réduit le retour sur investissement sur ce site. On pense que si ces légers changements avaient été apportés, le retour sur investissement moyen se-rait resté à peu près le même.

## New Brunswick Alfalfa Tissue Study

**Amended Project Objectives:** to examine the sulfur status of New Brunswick alfalfa stands through tissue testing. NBSCIA solicited 28 co-operators from across the province to participate in 2021. NBSCIA and DAAF staff collected corresponding alfalfa tissue and soil samples just prior to producers performing first cut and again before second cut. An example of an alfalfa tissue report, and its corresponding soil sample report is shown in Appendix B.

Preliminary results show that New Brunswick alfalfa stands had tissue sulfur levels that were sufficient for proper crop growth and development even though soil sulfur levels varied. It is the hope of the project team that the survey will help identify trends in fertilizer practices that explain the data collected.

Boron (B) and Magnesium (Mg) again appeared as low or deficient in a large proportion of the alfalfa tissue samples. Not as many of the samples were deficient in B as compared to 2020. It is believed that the increased precipitation received in 2021 compared to 2020 made the soil B pool more available to the crop. The project team thinks that samples low in B in 2021 would have been deficient if dry conditions like 2020 had presented. Magnesium, on the other hand, was low in a similar number of samples in both years. Soil Mg levels appeared sufficient for being able to provide adequate Mg to the crop, but it is evident from the tissue samples that this was not the case or possibly some other factor (i.e., nutrient interactions) limited uptake. The project team will need to investigate the cause further.

## Étude des Tissus de Luzerne du Nouveau-Brunswick

**Objectifs modifiés du projet:** examiner l'état en soufre des peuplements de luzerne du Nouveau-Brunswick par des analyses tissulaires.

L'AASCNB a sollicité la participation de 28 coopérateurs de partout dans la province en 2021. Le personnel de l'AASCNB et de la FAANB a collecté les échantillons de tissus et de sol de luzernes correspondantes justes avant que les producteurs n'effectuent la première coupe et à nouveau avant la deuxième coupe. Un exemple de rapport sur les tissus de luzerne et son rapport d'échantillon de sol correspondant sont présentés à l'annexe B.

Les résultats préliminaires montrent que les peuplements de luzerne du Nouveau-Brunswick présentaient des niveaux de soufre tissulaire suffisants pour une croissance et un développement appropriés des cultures, même si les niveaux de soufre du sol variaient. L'équipe du projet espère que l'enquête aidera à identifier les tendances des pratiques en matière d'engrais qui expliquent les données collectées.

Le bore (B) et le magnésium (Mg) sont de nouveau apparus comme faibles ou déficients dans une grande proportion des échantillons de tissus de luzerne. Les niveaux de magnésium dans les tissus et le sol pour 2020 et 2021 sont illustrés à la figure 2.

Pas autant d'échantillons étaient déficients en B par rapport à 2020. On pense que l'augmentation des précipitations reçues en 2021 par rapport à 2020 a rendu le pool de vitamines du sol plus disponible pour la culture. L'équipe du projet pense que les échantillons à faible teneur en B en 2021 auraient été déficients si des conditions sèches comme 2020 s'étaient présentées. Le magnésium, par contre, était faible dans un nombre similaire d'échantillons au cours des deux années. Les niveaux de Mg dans le sol semblaient suffisants pour pouvoir fournir suffisamment de Mg à la culture, mais il est évident à partir des échantillons de tissus que ce n'était pas le cas ou peut-être qu'un autre facteur (c.-à-d. interactions nutritionnelles) limitait l'absorption. L'équipe de projet devra enquêter davantage sur la cause.

**Enabling Agricultural Research and Innovation**

**C2021-0033-Y2**

**New Brunswick Forage 4R Nutrient Stewardship**

**Interim Report  
2021-2022**

New Brunswick Soil & Crop Improvement Association  
259 Brunswick Street, Suite 302  
Fredericton, NB  
E3B 1G8

**Project Lead:**  
Jason Wells  
Crop Development Specialist – Livestock Feed  
New Brunswick Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries  
701 Main Street  
Sussex, NB  
E4E 7H7

**Note:** Due to the restrictions imposed on NBSCIA and DAAF staff because of the covid-19 pandemic, project C2021-0033 was amended to include a New Brunswick Alfalfa Tissue Study.

**Project Objectives(s):** The objectives of the project are to engage producers to use a 4R nutrient stewardship approach to forage production and determine the cost to grow a tonne of high-quality forage on NB livestock farms.

**Amended Project Objectives (s):** to examine the sulfur status of New Brunswick alfalfa stands through tissue testing.

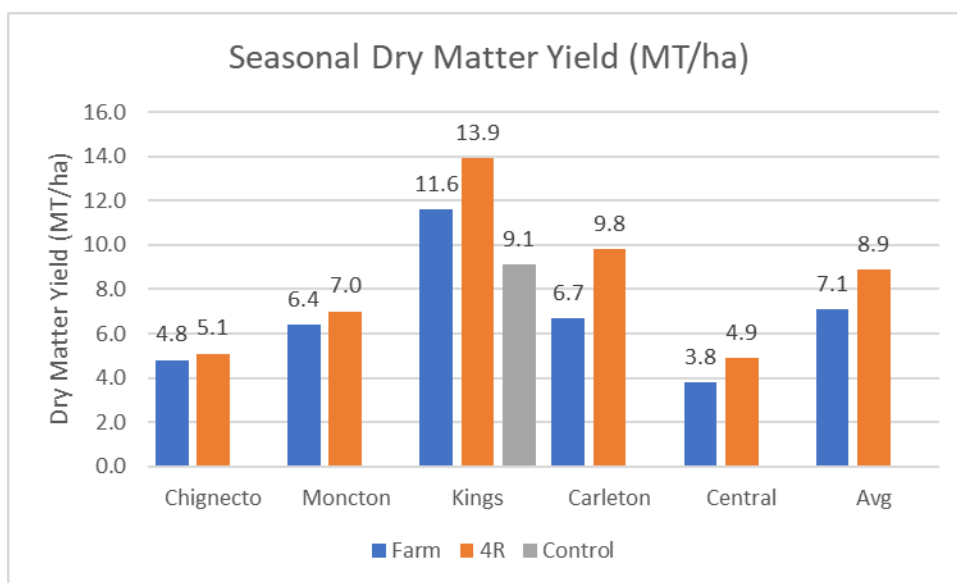
**Project Deliverable(s):** (a) Compare forage yields using a farms standard practice to a 4R approach, (b) Compare forage quality using a farms standard practice to a 4R approach, (c) Compare the COP of a farms standard practice to a 4R approach and (d) Determine an average COP for a tonne of high quality forage on NB livestock farms.

**Amended Project Deliverable (s):** (a) Sulfur status of New Brunswick alfalfa stands and (b) identification of other nutrient deficiencies in New Brunswick Alfalfa stands.

**Summary of Progress:** Due to the restrictions imposed on NBSCIA and DAAF staff because of the covid-19 pandemic, project C2021-0033 was amended to include a New Brunswick Alfalfa Tissue Study.

New Brunswick Forage 4R Nutrient Stewardship – 4R fertilizer recommendations were provided to the six co-operators in the spring of 2021. Each co-operator was responsible for applying the prescribed rate to the appropriate side of the trial field. NBSCIA staff collected yield measurements and samples for quality analysis at the time of first and second harvest.

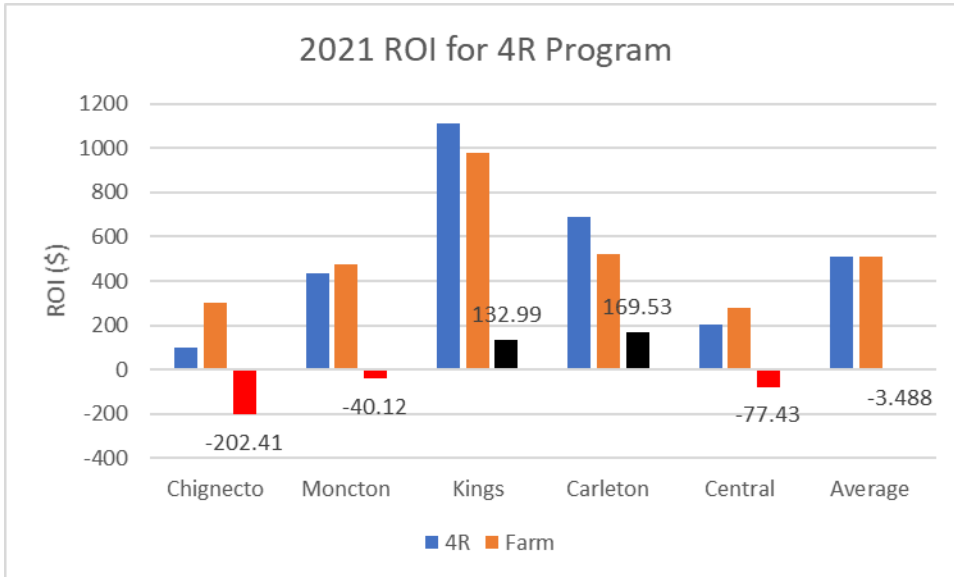
Dry matter yields varied between sites (Figure 1) but tended to favor the 4R treatment. When averaged across sites, there was 1.8 MT/ha of dry matter advantage with the 4R program. Since several factors contribute



**Figure 1.** Dry Matter Yield

to yield, the research team will need to collect background information on the stand (ex. type of species and age of the stand) and examine the soil nutrient status of each site to fully understand the yield variation between sites and the fertilizer programs.

A simple cost comparison between the 4R program and the farms standard practice is shown in Figure 2. A modest value for the forage was assumed (10 cents per dry matter pound, the value used for the 2021



**Figure 2.** Return On Investment of 4R Program vs. Farm Standard Practice

Hay West program). When averaged across sites, there was virtually no difference in the cost of the 2 programs. It should be noted that the ROI shown for the Chignecto and Kings locations may be a bit skewed. A manure application was not account for at the Chignecto site which would have decreased the cost for fertilizer for the 4R treatment and improved the ROI. Due to a management change at the Kings site, a second fertilizer application was not made which should have been, and this would have decreased the ROI at this site. It is thought that if these slight changes had been made, that the average ROI would have stayed approximately the same.

New Brunswick Alfalfa Tissue Study – NBSCIA solicited 28 co-operators from across the province to participate in 2021. NBSCIA and DAAF staff collected corresponding alfalfa tissue and soil samples just prior to producers performing first cut and again before second cut. An example of an alfalfa tissue report, and its corresponding soil sample report is shown in Appendix B.

The project team is in the process of surveying farmers as to their alfalfa management practices during the 2021 growing season to better explain the tissue and soil data that was collected. A copy of the survey is attached (Appendix C).

Preliminary results show that New Brunswick alfalfa stands had tissue sulfur levels that were sufficient for proper crop growth and development even though soil sulfur levels varied. It is the hope of the project team that the survey will help identified trends in fertilizer practices that explain the data collected.

Boron (B) and Magnesium (Mg) again appeared as low or deficient in a large proportion of the alfalfa tissue samples. Magnesium levels in the tissue and soil for 2020 and 2021 are shown in Figure 2. Not as many of the samples were deficient in B as compared to 2020. It is believed that the increased precipitation received in 2021 compared to 2020 made the soil B pool more available to the crop. The project team thinks that samples low in B in 2021 would have been deficient if dry conditions like 2020 had presented. Magnesium, on the other hand, was low in a similar number of samples in both years. Soil Mg levels appeared sufficient for being able to provide adequate Mg to the crop, but it is evident from the tissue samples that this was not the case or possibly some other factor (i.e. nutrient interactions) limited uptake. The project team will need to investigate the cause further.

The project team suggests that this work needs to be continued for at least another year, so sampling can occur under different growing conditions. Examining the data over multiples years will give a larger data set to examine and hopefully provide a clearer picture of what the trends are.



**Adjustments:** The project team asks that the same budget as Y2 be approved for Y3.  
Appendix A

**Soil Analysis Report**

14-Oct-2020

NB Soil & Crop Imp Assoc  
Ray Carmichael  
2600 Route 560  
Williamstown, NB  
E7K 1S6

**PEI Analytical Laboratories**  
**PEI Department of Agriculture & Fisheries**  
23 Innovation Way  
PO Box 2000, Charlottetown, PEI, C1A 7N8  
Fax: (902) 368-6299  
Telephone: (902) 620-3300



Client: 1607080016  
Accession: S201001004  
Samples Reported: 14-Oct-2020  
Samples Received: 01-Oct-2020

Dean Acton

Sample Information			Soil Test Values and Ratings							
Lab Sample #	Field Number	Organic Matter (%)*	pH*	Phosphate P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> (ppm)*	Potash K <sub>2</sub> O (ppm)*	Calcium Ca (ppm)*	Magnesium Mg (ppm)*	Boron B (ppm)*	Copper Cu (ppm)*	Salt mS/cm
1	4R20DA	3.6	7.2	91 M+	48 M	1986 H+	34 L	0.4	1.2	



Lab Sample #	Field Number	Zinc Zn (ppm)*	Sulfur S (ppm)*	Manganese Mn (ppm)*	Iron Fe (ppm)*	Sodium Na (ppm)*	Aluminum Al (ppm)*	Lime Index*	Nitrogen N (%)	Nitrate-N NO <sub>3</sub> -N (ppm)
1	4R20DA	1.6	20	119	268	37	729	7.3		

L-: Low L: Low M: Medium M+: Above Medium H: High H+: Very High

To convert HECTARES into ACRES multiply by 2.47				To convert T/HECTARE into T/ACRE multiply by 0.45			To convert Kg/Ha into lbs/ACRE: multiply by 0.9		
Sample Information				Limestone application (T/Ha) to achieve			Required Applications (Kg/Ha)		
Lab Sample #	Field Number	Field Size (Ha)	Crop to be Grown	pH 5.5	pH 6.0	pH 6.5	Nitrogen N	Phosphate P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	Potash K <sub>2</sub> O
1	4R20DA		Grass Forage - <= 50% legume				48	16	48

Lab Sample #	Field Number	% P/Al	Ratio Ca/Mg	M a n	S o d	CEC (Meq/100g)	Base Saturation					Total % Base Saturation
							% K	% Mg	% Ca	% H	% Na	
1	4R20DA	5.45	58:1	0	0	11	0.9	2.6	90.3	4.7	1.5	93.8

The Soil Analysis Report result(s) relate only to the actual submitted and tested sample(s). Dates of analysis are available in Appendix A of this report. Please take a moment to complete our client satisfaction survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PEIAL>.

Comments: All fertilizer recommendations are based on a pH of 6.0 To convert P2O5 to P, divide by 2.29. To convert K2O to K, divide by 1.2.		Methods: SFL_22M - pH* SFL_23M - Organic Matter* SFL_24M - Nutrients* SFL_29M - Nitrate/Ammonia SFL_30M - Nitrogen SFL_26M - Salt/Conductivity * Accredited Methods & Parameters
<b>Copies To:</b> Moncton - Zoshia Fraser - NB Soil & Crop Imp Assoc	<b>Approved By:</b>  Laboratory Manager	

## Appendix B

Report Number: C21161-50031  
Account Number: 01778

# A & L Canada Laboratories Inc

2138 Jetstream Road, London, Ontario, N5V 3P5  
Telephone: (519) 457-2575 Fax: (519) 457-2884



Date Received: 2021-06-10 Date Reported:

Date Printed: 2021-06-11

## PLANT ANALYSIS REPORT

To: NB SOIL & CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION  
2-150 WOODSIDE LANE  
FREDERICTON, NB E3C 2R9

For: C2021-0033-Y2

Sample ID: JB-ATS21-C1

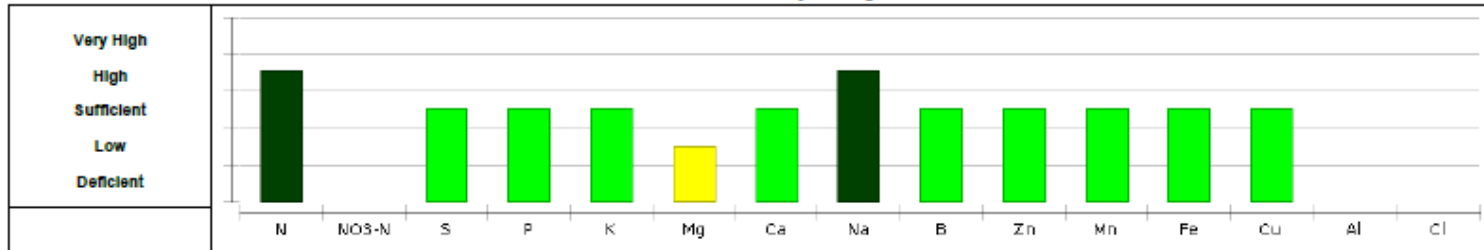
Attn: LEIGHA SANDWICH

Farm: JOHN BEST

Plant Type: Alfalfa  
Growth Stage: Prior to flowering  
Plant Part: Top 6"

Date Sampled	Lab Number	Nitrogen (%)	Nitrate Nitrogen (%)	Sulfur (%)	Phosphorus (%)	Potassium (%)	Magnesium (%)	Calcium (%)	Sodium (%)	Boron (ppm)	Zinc (ppm)	Manganese (ppm)	Iron (ppm)	Copper (ppm)	Aluminum (ppm)	Chloride (%)
2021-06-01	1610064	5.34		0.32	0.41	3.31	0.32	1.71	0.06	43.41	38	48	109	7.24	31	
<b>Normal Range</b>		3.80 5.00		0.20 0.48	0.30 0.80	2.50 5.00	0.35 0.50	1.00 3.00	0.01 0.03	30 80	20 80	30 150	30 250	5 30		
		<b>N/S</b>	<b>N/K</b>	<b>P/S</b>	<b>P/Zn</b>	<b>K/Mg</b>	<b>K/Mn</b>	<b>Fe/Mn</b>	<b>Ca/B</b>							
<b>Actual Ratio</b>		16.5	1.6	1.3	108	10.5	684	2.3	394							
<b>Expected Ratio</b>		12.0	1.1	1.7	100	9.0	460	1.9	400							

### Nutrient Sufficiency Ratings



- These plants are low in MAGNESIUM. This condition may be due to low soil magnesium, excess soil potassium, low soil pH or poor drainage. A&L recommends a foliar application at this time follow manufacturer specifications.
- A&L recommends an application when Mg, B, P, Zn or Mn are low or deficient at this plant stage. Follow the recommended product label rates.
- A&L Recommends a followup tissue sample 14 days after foliar treatment to monitor progress.



C21161-50031

A&L Canada Laboratories Inc. is accredited by the Standards Council of Canada for specific tests as listed on [www.scc.ca](http://www.scc.ca) and by the Canadian Association for Laboratory Accreditation as listed on [www.caia.ca](http://www.caia.ca)

Results Authorized By:  Ian McLachlin, Vice President

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# Soil Analysis Report

14-Jun-2021

NB Soil & Crop Imp Assoc  
Ray Carmichael  
2600 Route 560  
Williamstown, NB  
E7K 1S6

PEI Analytical Laboratories  
Department of Agriculture & Land

23 Innovation Way  
PO Box 2000, Charlottetown, PE, C1A 7N8

Fax: (902) 368-6299

Tel: (902) 620-3300



Client: 1607080016  
Accession No: S210609011  
Samples Reported: 14-Jun-2021  
Samples Received: 09-Jun-2021

C2021-0033-Y2

Sample Information		Soil Test Values and Ratings								
Lab Sample #	Field Number	Organic Matter (%)*	pH*	Phosphate P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> (ppm)*	Potassium K <sub>2</sub> O (ppm)*	Calcium Ca (ppm)*	Magnesium Mg (ppm)*	Boron B (ppm)*	Copper Cu (ppm)*	Salt (mS/cm)
1	JB-ATS21-C1	3.7	6.2	487 H+	141 H	1352 H	181 H+	0.7	3.9	


Lab Sample #	Field Number	Zinc Zn (ppm)*	Sulfur S (ppm)*	Manganese Mn (ppm)*	Iron Fe (ppm)*	Sodium Na (ppm)*	Aluminum Al (ppm)*	Lime Index*	Nitrogen N (%)	Nitrate-N NO <sub>3</sub> -N (ppm)
1	JB-ATS21-C1	4.3	15	70	227	20	1476	6.7		

L: Low L: Low M: Medium M+: Above Medium H: High H+: Very High

To convert HECTARES into ACRES multiply by 2.47				To convert T/HECTARE into T/ACRE multiply by 0.45			To convert HECTARES into ACRES multiply by 2.47			
Sample Information				Limestone application (T/Ha) to achieve			Required Applications (kg/Ha)			
Lab Sample #	Field Number	Field Size (Ha)	Crop to be Grown	pH 5.5	pH 6.0	pH 6.5	Nitrogen N	Phosphate P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	Potash K <sub>2</sub> O	
1	JB-ATS21-C1		Alfalfa - >= 50% legume			2	28	30	50	

Lab Sample #	Field Number	% P/AI	Ratio Ca/Mg	Man	Sod	CEC (Meq/100g)	Base Saturation					Total % Base Saturation
							% K	% Mg	% Ca	% H	% Na	
1	JB-ATS21-C1	14.41	7:1	0	0	12	2.5	12.3	55.2	30.0	0.7	70.0

The Soil Analysis Report result(s) relate only to the actual submitted and tested sample(s). Dates of analysis are available in Appendix A of this report. Please take a moment to complete our client satisfaction survey at <https://peial.questionpro.ca>

<b>Comments:</b> All fertilizer recommendations are based on a pH of 6.0. To convert P2O5 to P, divide by 2.29. To convert K2O to K, divide by 1.2.		<b>Methods:</b> SFL_22M - pH* SFL_23M - Organic Matter* SFL_24M - Nutrients* SFL_30M - Nitrogen*	
<b>Copies To:</b> Central - Andrew Sytsma - NB Soil & Crop Imp Assoc		<b>Approved By:</b>  Laboratory Manager	



\*Accredited Methods & Parameters





