



NAPT Program Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 1

March 2008

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Welcome to the March 2008 Newsletter of the NAPT Program. This newsletter is being sent to participating labs, prospective labs, and government and regulatory agencies to provide information about the NAPT Program. To date, there are 149 labs in the program, with several more in the process of joining.

NAPT 2008 Program

The 2008 NAPT Program is currently underway. The goal of the North American Proficiency Testing (NAPT) Program is to assist soil, plant and water testing laboratories in their performance through inter-laboratory sample exchanges and a statistical evaluation of the analytical data. The options available to laboratories participating in the program include:

- Soil Program *only* (4x year) - \$580 (US)
- Soil Program *only* (2x year) - \$360 (US)
- Water Program *only* - \$395 (US)
- Plant and Water Program - \$570 (US)
- Soil and Plant Program - \$760 (US)
- Soil and Water Program - \$760 (US)
- Soil and Environmental Soil Program - \$810 (US)
- Soil, Plant, and Environmental Soil Program - \$995 (US)
- Soil, Water, and Environmental Soil Program - \$995 (US)
- Soil, Plant, and Water Program - \$895 (US)
- Soil, Plant, Water, Environmental Soil Program - \$1125 (US)

The program guidelines have been developed for the agricultural laboratory industry by representatives from groups familiar with and involved in standardizing methods and developing nutrient recommendations for soil and plant analysis methods within the U.S. and Canada. It is operated as an activity of the Soil Science Society of America and overseen by an oversight committee comprised of representatives of the above-mentioned groups. These include: Regional Soil and Plant Analysis Workgroups; Scientific Organizations; State/Provincial Departments of Agriculture; and private and public and plant analysis labs.

Cooperating State and Provincial Programs

The NAPT program cooperates with state and provincial programs in Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, and Ontario. Laboratories who desire to be certified in these programs need only to join the NAPT program and agree to allow the NAPT Coordinator to release their data to the program. In the past, laboratories had to join each program separately, costing additional time and money. The state and provincial programs can enjoy a larger pool of results for determining the statistics of how their labs are performing if they desire, since the state and provincial coordinators receive the general results for each quarter of the NAPT program as well as the individual lab data for the labs who choose to participate in their programs. For further information on the state and provincial programs, you may contact the NAPT coordinator—Janice Kotuby-Amacher (jkotuby@mendel.usu.edu) or the individual program coordinators:

Iowa	Travis Knight	Travis.Knight@idals.state.ia.us
Minnesota	Jerry Floren	jerry.floren@state.mn.us
Missouri	Manjula Nathan	nathanm@missouri.edu
Nebraska	Charles Focht	cfocht@agr.ne.gov
Ontario	Keith Reid	keith.reid@ontario.ca



Proficiency Assessment Program

The Proficiency Assessment program (PAP) is a voluntary program offered as a service of the Soil Science Society of America (SSSA), Madison, WI, and operated as a part of the North American Proficiency Testing program (NAPT), and is administered by the NAPT Oversight Committee. While the PAP program is offered as a voluntary service to all soil testing laboratories, this program has been adopted by the NRCS as assurance that soil test analyses are being performed using validated testing methods. The PAP program is required by the NRCS for soil analysis laboratories analyzing soils for federal government programs involved with the development of nutrient management plans in certain Western US states.

Cost for the program has been significantly reduced, enabling more labs to participate in the program. In the past, the program cost \$1425 each two years and involved the use of surrogate clients to send double-blind samples. The program now costs \$200 per year and involves the scoring of quarterly NAPT samples. Both the NRCS and the labs are happy with the changes in the program and find that it is sufficient for monitoring laboratory performance.

To participate in the PAP program, participants must adhere to the PAP Ethics Declaration. When enrolling in the PAP program, please read, sign and return the Ethics Declaration.

**The NAPT
Oversight
Committee
welcomes your
comments on
the program
and suggestions
for
improvement**

NAPT Oversight Committee

The NAPT program operates as an activity of the Soil Science Society of America (SSSA). A NAPT Oversight Committee (SSSA S890) was established by SSSA to develop the program and oversee its operation. The objective of this committee is to develop program policies and technical guidelines for operating the NAPT.

As such, the Oversight Committee determines the sample exchange frequency and number of samples per exchange; specifications for material collection and preparation; selection of analytes to be tested and analytical methodologies performed; and specifications of statistical methods used to analyze the analytical data.

The Oversight Committee is also responsible for developing the program budget, recommending annual program fees, and developing promotional materials and workshops in cooperation with the NAPT coordinator. Other important roles of the NAPT Oversight Committee are to assist the SSSA in selecting the NAPT Coordinator who oversees daily operation of the program and a contract lab to prepare and distribute proficiency samples.

An important aspect of the NAPT Oversight Committee is the diversity of its members who are selected to represent the range of groups with an interest and/or stake in the quality of soil and plant analysis results.

Committee members serve 3-year terms with a maximum of two consecutive terms. The Committee meets annually at the SSSA meeting and by teleconference as the need arises throughout the year.

Current members of the NAPT Oversight Committee, and who they represent, are given at the end of this newsletter.

The success of the NAPT program depends on meeting the needs of laboratories and other clientele that participate in the program. The NAPT Oversight Committee welcomes your comments on the program and suggestions for improvement.

Soils Lab Manual



NAPT Website

The NAPT website contains lots of information important to the program and the soil testing industry. Included on the website is general information about the NAPT and PAP programs, enrollment information and our brochure, laboratory reporting forms for the NAPT program, a listing of soils available for purchase as QA/QC sample, results from previous quarters, and method papers. The method papers were written by members of the NAPT program and address problems or concerns of interest to lab managers and workers in the soil testing industry. We also have links to the regional soil testing workgroups methods manuals and links to proficiency testing programs for manure and compost. Participating laboratories, who so desire, are also listed on the website. The PAP-approved laboratories for the current year are listed on our website and with the NRCS. Please visit our website at:

www.naptprogram.org

For more information about the program and the soil testing industry.



Important Dates

1st Quarter Dates:	2nd Quarter Dates:	3rd Quarter Dates:	4th Quarter Dates:
Samples Ship - March 15	Samples Ship - May 1	Samples Ship - July 14	Samples Ship - Sept. 20
Results Due - April 15	Results Due - July 1	Results Due - Sept. 5	Results Due - Nov. 21

Please note the tentative dates for shipping the samples for the rest of 2008!

Further Information:

For further information on the NAPT or PAP programs or how to purchase specific Reference Soils and plant materials utilized in the program, separately from the enrollment/renewal form, visit www.naptprogram.org or contact the program coordinator or the NAPT Services Representative.

Dr. Janice Kotuby-Amacher
NAPT Coordinator
2450 Le Conte Ave
Berkeley CA 94709

Phone: 435-764-7643
Fax: 435-797-2117
Email: jkotuby@mendel.usu.edu

Melissa Fall
NAPT Services Representative
Soils Science Society of America
677 S Segoe Road
Madison WI 53711-1086

Phone: 608-268-4972
Fax: 608-273-2021
Email: napt@soils.org





NAPT Program
Utah State University
4831 Old Main Hill
Logan UT 84322-4831

Jan Kotuby: 435-764-7643
NAPT Coordinator
John Lawley: 435-757-8117
NAPT Assistant—samples
E-mail: jkotuby@mendel.usu.edu

Visit us on the Web:
www.naptprogram.org



2008 NAPT Oversight Committee Members

Representing Group	Name	Position	Term
SSSA	Ed Hanlon	Member	2008
SPAC (Soil+Plant Anal Council)	Mark Flock	Member	2010
CSSS (Canadian Soil Sci Soc)	Rigas Karamanos	Member	2010
NCR-13	Manjula Nathan	Member	2008
NEC-107	Renuka Rao	Member	2009
SERA-6	Frank Sikora	Member	2008
	Brent Thyssen	Member	
WERA-103	Donald Horneck	Chair	2009
Reg. Agency from state that oversees soil/plant proficiency programs	D. Keith Reid	Chair-elect	2009
Private Laboratories (Canada)	Clive Dawson	Member	2009
Private Laboratories (South)	Steve Harrold	Member	2008
Private Laboratories (West)	Victoria Normandin	Past Chair	2009
Private Laboratories (North Central)	Randall Warden	Member	2010
Private Laboratories (Northeast)	Tim Horner	Member	2010
Ex-Officio			
NAPT Coordinator	Janice Kotuby-Amacher		
NAPT Contract Lab Representative	Janice Kotuby-Amacher		
SSSA Staff Representative	Susan Chapman		9999
Current SSSA S-8 division Chair	Randall Warden		2008
NRCS Representative	Rebecca Burt		9999
SSSA Exec. Cmte Rep	Rattan Lal		2008
S889 Chair	Bryan Hopkins		2008