

Level 3 Sample Test Plot Protocol

Example: Wheat Fertilizer Trial

1. Soil test before applying fertilizer
2. Apply treatment to plots
 - a. Minimum 3 reps, 4-5 preferable
 - b. Make sure both control and treatment strips will receive same amount of total fertilizer unless otherwise specified.
 - c. Strips should be at least 2 combine passes wide to avoid harvesting wheel tracks and other abnormalities
 - d. Mark plots with flags and/or GPS
3. Planting – Same variety, seeding rate, etc., across field. Record field information.
4. Monitor plot over summer
 - a. Record additional applications (pesticides, etc.)
 - b. Tissue test at appropriate stage
5. Harvest
 - a. One pass down each strip free of wheel tracks
 - b. Three protein samples (total) probed from hopper for each strip
 - c. Weight should be measured at the end of each strip with a grain cart or calibrated yield monitor
6. Analysis
 - a. Calculate yield
 - b. Analyze grain samples for protein and test weight
 - c. Analyze data for statistical/agronomic significance
 - d. Report findings