

SOIL NUTRIENT HEALTH SCHEME



A free soil sampling & analysis programme
for Northern Ireland's farmers

Why take part?

The Soil Nutrient Health Scheme (SNHS) will provide farmers with vital, detailed information on managing soil nutrients and carbon on their farms. This will help them to optimise the application of crop nutrients, improving farm profitability while reducing the potential for nutrient loss to the environment. Each farm will receive:

- Detailed information on the nutrient status of their soils
- Farm-level estimates of carbon stored in the soils, hedgerows and trees
- Runoff risk maps for nutrient loss to waterbodies for each field
- CAFRE-led training on the interpretation of soil nutrient reports and generation of farm nutrient management plans

Participation in SNHS will be a requirement to receive payments under future support schemes from 2024. These schemes will be an important source of income for many NI farms and include the Farm Sustainability & Beef Sustainability payments.

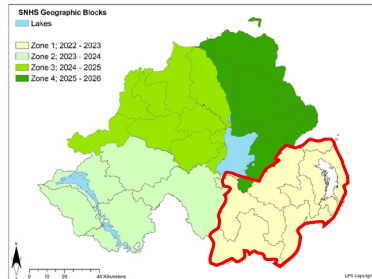
How does it work?

This **free** service is currently registering farmers in Zone 1.

You only need to register. Everything else will be done by AFBI and our sub-contractors.

Once registered:

- RPS Group will contact each farmer to arrange sampling, normally between November and February.
- The sampling team will come to your farm and take 25 core samples in a “W” path across each field.
- RPS will quality assure & send the samples off for analysis to NRM in England.
- You will receive your results 4-6 weeks after sampling. AFBI will be in contact to tell you how to access them.
- CAFRE will invite farmers to nutrient management training, beginning this autumn.



How will the results be used?

The results are yours! This scheme provides essential information to enable **you** to make management decisions for **your** farm. **Soil nutrient management saves money.**

AFBI may also use some of the information in future research to support agriculture in NI- **but this will always be anonymised.**

Your data will NOT be used by DAERA for enforcement purposes

To register:

- visit: www.afbini.gov.uk/articles/soil-nutrient-health-scheme
- email: snhs@afbini.gov.uk
- scan the **QR code** opposite
- phone the SNHS Helpdesk: **028 90 255212**

