

SOIL QUICK TESTS

with the USDA-NRCS “Soil Quality Kit Bucket” &

the “REAP@ Soil Health Test Vest”.

In’vest’ing in the Future – Renewing Earth and People

The enclosed tools, guidelines, and reference materials are only intended as a starting point for use by educators of high school and beginning college students. It is our hope that the FFA educators and Natural Resource Conservationists attending the June, 2012 ‘*Educators connecting agriculture to research*’ workshops at Mead and North Platte Nebraska will choose, modify, and improvise the tools and resource materials provided in the Soil Quality Kit Bucket and the field Soil Health Vest (REAP Vest) to meet their own unique needs and situations in working with students. The USDA-NRCS “Soil Quality Kit – Guide for Educators” provide excellent detailed and definitive reference guides for major soil quality assessments that can be made with the NRCS “Soil Quality Kit Bucket” and the REAP Soil Health Vest. A separate 9 page guide on Soil Health Quick Tests with the REAP@ Vest is intended to provide an *overview* of rapid assessments of soil health that can be made in the field or classroom. Our major goal for using the REAP vest is to be able to rapidly assess the current soil health state, and it’s trend in order to sustain agricultural productivity and environmental quality in order to balance the needs of our soil and natural resources with those of people.

The major strategies for sustainable management of our soils are to:

Conserve Soil Organic Matter

Minimize Soil Erosion

Balance Production with Environment

Better Use Renewable Resources.

We thank the Nebraska Environmental Trust, the FFA Foundation, UNL, and the University of Nebraska Extension Service for the financial and administrative support to make this project possible.

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