

ALBERTA SOIL QUALITY CARD
FIELD IDENTIFICATION AND MANAGEMENT NOTES

Field ID: _____

Current Crop: _____

Crop Rotation: _____

Tillage Practices: _____

Pesticide(s) Applied: _____

Fertilizer(s) Applied: _____

Manure Applied: _____

Past/Present Yield Data: _____

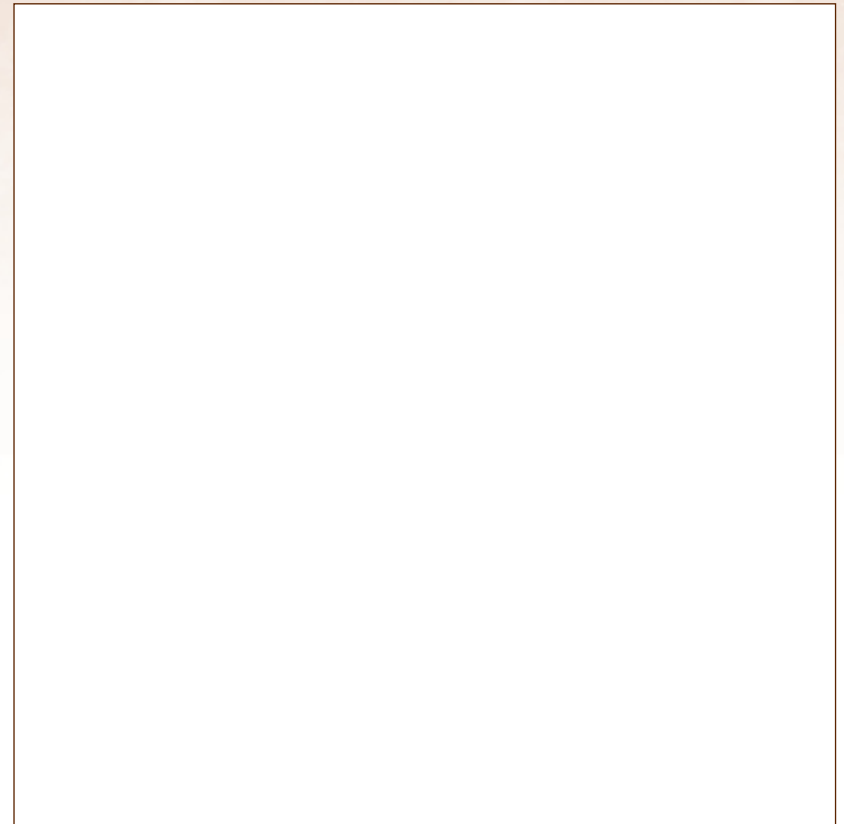
Type of Residue Management: _____
(baled, chaff spread etc.)

**Number of Years in
Similar Management:** _____

Past Farming Management: _____

Soil Variability: _____
(soil type, topography, management, etc.)

Field Map
(mark areas of special interest and assessment points)



Additional Comments or Notes:

ALBERTA SOIL QUALITY CARD

Name _____ Date _____ Field/Site _____

INDICATOR	RANKING			SCORE Circle one
	Low (L)	Medium (M)	Preferred (P)	
CROP / WEED VIGOR	Stunted growth, uneven stand, consistently poor yields	Some uneven or stunted growth, inconsistent yields	Healthy, vigorous and uniform stand, consistently good yields	L M P
RESIDUE COVER	Little or no surface residue, bare soil present	Some surface residue present, but soil surface not completely covered	Soil surface covered year round, little bare soil present	L M P
ORGANIC MATTER COLOR	Topsoil color similar to subsoil		Topsoil clearly defined, darker than subsoil	L M P
DRAINAGE / INFILTRATION	Soil absorbs water very slowly, lots of runoff or erosion, excessive wet spots in field, ponding	Soil absorbs water slowly, some runoff or erosion, some wet spots in field and soil profile	Soil absorbs water quickly, very little runoff or erosion, water is evenly drained through field and soil profile	L M P
WATER-HOLDING CAPACITY	Soil has limited capacity to hold water, plant stress a couple days after a good rain	Soil has moderate capacity to hold water, water runs out after a week or so	Soil holds water well, holds water for a long period of time without ponding	L M P
AGGREGATION	Soil surface is hard, clumps and does not break apart, very powdery when dry	Soil crumbles in hand, few aggregates	Soil surface has many soft small aggregates which crumble easily	L M P
EARTHWORMS / SOIL LIFE	Very few worms, insects or visible soil life per shovel. Little evidence of activity (holes or worm casts)	Some worms, insects and other visible soil life per shovel, some evidence of activity	Many worms, insects or visible soil life per shovel	L M P
COMPACTION / ROOTING	Hard layers, severely restricted root penetration, very few roots, mostly horizontal	Firm soil, slightly restricted root penetration, more roots, some horizontal and some remaining vertical	Loose soil, unrestricted root penetration, many vertical and horizontal roots, deep rooting	L M P
CRUSTING / EMERGENCE	Soil surface seals easily after tillage or rain, seedling emergence inhibited	Some surface sealing, minimal effect on seedling emergence	Soil surface has open or porous surface all season, seedling emergence not affected	L M P
TILTH / WORKABILITY	Crusting, large clods, tills with difficulty	Some crusting, small clods, medium pull	Mellow, crumbly, tills easily, leaving no clods	L M P
WIND / WATER EROSION	Obvious soil drifting, shallow topsoil, subsoil showing at surface, or large gullies present	Some evidence of soil drifting, few gullies, some colored runoff	No obvious soil drifting, no gullies, clear or no runoff	L M P
SALINITY	Visible salt, dead plants	Stunted growth	No visible salt or plant damage noted	L M P
OTHERS				L M P

