

### Proficiency Testing

The Professional Agricultural Analysis Group (PAAG) was established in 2009 and is formed of the main UK soil analysis laboratories.

### Setting Standards for Soil Analysis

Every year, PAAG laboratories analyse more than 250,000 soil samples for routine advisory purposes (pH, P, K and Mg). It is essential that farmers and advisers have confidence in analytical results which play such a strong role in nutrient management.

### Proficiency testing

All members of the Professional Agricultural Analysis Group (PAAG) take part in a proficiency testing scheme (often called a ring test) guaranteeing that analysis from any member can be trusted and ensuring consistency of analysis amongst all the laboratories.

### Independent and verified accreditation

The PAAG ensure our laboratories are working to the highest standards through independent and unbiased testing as part of the international WEPAL (Wageningen Evaluating Programs for Analytical Laboratories) scheme run by Wageningen University.



### Ongoing review

Each quarter the performance of our labs are assessed and reported, each laboratory receives feedback on their performance in relation to all members of the group. Each member identifies any significant variation and will implement corrective action to remedy divergence.

The PAAG proficiency testing scheme is now in its eighth year and our members continue to provide consistent services to Farmers, Growers and Advisers.



### What to do with the Analyses?

Simply undertaking to analyse your soils is just the first step. Once you have results now you are in a position to understand and plan your nutrient management. Quality and trusted soil analysis are the basis for being able to ensure the needs of your crops/grass can be catered for. RB209 The Fertiliser Manual provides detailed guidance on how to plan and implement your nutrient applications on farm. This is currently being reviewed by the Agriculture and Horticultural Development Board, the current version and details of the review can be found on their website.

[www.ahdb.org.uk/projects/CropNutrition.aspx](http://www.ahdb.org.uk/projects/CropNutrition.aspx).

### Who are the labs?

A list of PAAG laboratories can be found at <http://www.nutrientmanagement.org>.

