

Minutes of the 1995 MASTPAWG Annual Meeting
February 22 & 23, 1994
95

Wednesday, February 22

• **Welcome and Introductions**

Steve Donohue called the meeting to order at 8:35, welcomed everyone, reviewed the agenda and sent around revised copies of the minutes and mailing list. The updated mailing list was returned to Karen in order to update the disk version.

• **Southern States -- 77 Years of Agricultural Business**

Steve Donohue introduced Steve Patterson representing Southern States Cooperative. Steve P. presented a short program on "Southern States -- 77 Years of Agricultural Business" which highlighted SS's "Grow Master Program". The program provides a total crop production package which is sound -- economically, environmentally and agronomically. Steve discussed new programs at SS including:

- 1) the Grow Master Agronomic Certificate
- 2) Precision nutrient management
- 3) Electronic assistance for nutrient management
- 4) Crop consulting
- 5) New fertilizer materials available from SS



• **History of MASTPAWG -- Steve Donohue, Jim Woodruff**

Steve and Jim presented a history of the MASTPA workgroup -- How the group originated, who participated and what the goals of the group were. The first meeting was held in June, 1975, hosted by Southern States. Soil fertility and soil testing faculty from MD, DE, VA, WV and Kentucky were initially invited to participate in a discussion about differences in programs and recommendations among the states. Other states (NJ, NC and SC) which worked with the 5 original states or which used similar extracts were invited to the program as well. At the original meeting it was determined that interpretive scales and recommendations were very different from state to state. Results of the first meeting justified the need for future meetings.

The goals of the workgroup set at these initial meetings were as follows:

- 1) To define the following critical values for N, P and K on corn, soybeans and small grains for the Mid-atlantic region:
 - a: The point of no further response -- i.e. 100% sufficiency
 - b: The maximum recommendation
 - c: The soil test value where no fertilizer is recommended
- 2) To work on standardizing laboratory procedures

For the first 5 years, participation in MASTPAWG was limited to university laboratories. Commercial and private laboratories were added in 1981. A summary of the major meeting topics and the group's history is as follows.:

- 1975:** First meetings were held. Reviewed soil test ranges, assumptions and recommendations for N,P, and K. Data was very different from state to state. Started soil sample exchanges. Exchange results were highly variable. Decided to switch to a standard scoop and report results on a volume basis (mg/dm³). Volume basis results were much closer.
- 1976:** Worked on developing uniform recommendations for N, P, and K at various soil test ranges (in mg/dm³) and on comparing laboratory techniques.
- 1977:** Reviewed soil tests for trace elements.
- 1978:** Standardized recommendations for N,P,K. Reviewed regional guidelines on sulfur and trace elements.
- 1979:** Discussed lime recommendations, N, P and K recommendations, sulfur and trace elements and nitrogen soil tests.
- 1980:** Discussed N, P and K recommendations, sulfur and trace elements, and computer use in soil testing laboratories.
- 1981:** Invited commercial laboratories to participate. Discussed recommendations for P and K, sulfur and the trace elements.
- 1982:** Discussed lime recommendations, plant analysis procedures and interpretations.
- 1983:** Reviewed recommendations for N, P, Ca, Mg, S and the trace

elements. Discussed subsoil fertility and the use of Mehlich 3.

- 1984:** Discussed organic matter soil tests and the use of Mehlich 3.
- 1985:** Discussed Mehlich 3, plant analysis and interpretation, fertilizer management on high P soils and tests for sludge and manure.
- 1986:** Discussed soil tests for nitrogen, organic matter and humic matter, plant analysis and updates on trace elements.
- 1987:** Discussed N, P and K recommendations and Mehlich 3
- 1988 through 1990:** Discussed many different topics related to laboratory interests.
- 1991:** Discussed N recommendations for corn and many other topics
- 1992:** Discussed management of excessive P soils and several other topics
- 1993 & 1994:** Discussed numerous topics
- 1995:** Returned to a review of interpretation and recommendations for N, P and K

Soil Sample Exchange -- Ray Tucker

Numbers look pretty good. Need to use the correct scoop size for Mehlich 3 or adjust scoop size accordingly. Some adjustments were made incorrectly. Ray will correct data and send out an updated copy. Some factors which may account for the differences observed:

- 1) shake time
- 2) stroke length
- 3) flask size and shape

Clemson will handle sample exchange in 1996 -- Virginia will provide at least 1 sample.