

University of Arkansas Soil Testing Laboratory at Marianna: Past, present, and future. (S08-mozaffari142505-Poster)

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Abstract:

University of Arkansas Soil Testing and Research Laboratory (UASTRL) in Marianna is one of the largest publicly funded soil testing facilities in U.S. The laboratory was established on the main campus of the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville in 1945 and started offering analytical services in the same year. In 1954 the laboratory was moved to Marianna. UASTRL was one of the first laboratories that computerized the fertilizer recommendations in 1980 and utilized ICP for soil and plant analysis in 1987. UASTRL is currently utilizing state of the art analytical instruments including three ICP's and computer integrated automated pH and EC measurement systems. The laboratory is a member of NAPT and also follows a rigorous QA/QC plan. Currently UASTRL has 14 full time and 4 part time employees and analyzes approximately 100,000 soil samples per year. Growers can download their data from our website at www.uark.edu/depts/soiltest/. Future plans include addition of new instruments and development of an interactive web based interface for real time modification of fertilizer and crop choices by the growers. Additional information on historical development of the UASTRL and future plans to meet the challenges that we will be facing in the 21st century will be presented.

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