

## **Copper fertilization of forages**

To determine whether forages grasses will respond to foliar copper fertilizers on soils that appear copper deficient.

Forage grass seed production is often undertaken on fields that have coarse textured soils with low organic matter in part because such soils benefit from organic matter additions from forage grasses. These soils are often low in nitrogen and sometimes low in soil micronutrients. In NE Saskatchewan, copper can be limited on coarse textured soils. Nitrogen fertilizer applications on forages sometimes fail to enhance forage grass seed yield as much as expected. There is some concern that lack of copper may be limiting responses to other nutrients.

We plan to conduct preliminary evaluations of copper responses by forage grasses in 2013, and use this information to decide whether to expand research on this issue.

*Support for this project is provided by the Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission.*