

USDA-ARS Grazinglands Research Laboratory

C/O Brekke Munks or Lauren Hannah

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Subject: LTAR PLFA Sampling and Analysis

Dear LTAR Group,

Hopefully this letter comes at a time when everyone is slowing down for the field season. Some people have been inquiring about poly lipid fatty acid profiling analysis (PLFA) and what exactly needs to occur. In the email please find attached a protocol and an excel file that we would appreciate if you would spend a little time to fill out and send back to [brekke.peterson@ars.usda.gov](mailto:brekke.peterson@ars.usda.gov). We are hoping to gauge how many sites want to be included in PLFA analysis so that we can schedule shipping, processing and running of samples in a timely fashion.

If you have any questions concerning the process please call Brekke at 307.710.9495 to get those answered. The process of sampling is relatively easy and shipping should occur overnight to ensure samples integrity. We have a few parameters to consider: is microbial biomass carbon and nitrogen going to be analyzed for the soil? If so where, in house or by another lab? Are you sub-parsing your sample for archiving? El Reno is not prepared at this moment to archive samples for the whole network. However, we are more than ready to analyze samples.

Thank you for your time and effort. Having a cross-nation database of PLFA will be incredible for the network! Please take the time to fill out the excel file and send it back and read-over the protocol. We are looking forward to this dataset!

Sincerely,

Brekke Munks