

Instructions for Using FarmLab to Conduct SCI Soil Sampling

These instructions should be read in conjunction with Soil & Climate Initiative's Soil Testing Guidance & Methodology – 04/2024. Together, they provide directions to complete the lab and in-field testing requirements for SCI verification.

IMPORTANT: Sampling is expected to take between **1-2 hours per field**. It is recommended you read through all the instructions before commencing in-field sampling, even if this is NOT your first time. Doing so will improve your efficiency and help avoiding mistakes in the field that may make your results invalid.

Supplies for In-Field Testing: The list of materials/equipment required for the in-field tests (water infiltration, etc.) are listed in the SCI Guidance & Methodology document [HERE](#).

Be sure to carry:

- The contents of this kit, including the instructions, and sample bags.
- (If you do not have FarmLab Sample Bags) A large (gallon-size) zip-lock plastic bag capable of holding 2lbs of soil
- A sharpie to write details on the bag
- A mobile phone to download FarmLab (ensure it has a full battery, as you'll be navigating and sampling with it in-field). Be sure your device is GPS enabled
- A shovel
- 2 x buckets, one for your 0-6" and another for your 6-12" samples
- Water (for you!)

What you'll learn in this guide:

- How to access and register with FarmLab
- How to use the mobile app to collect your samples
- How to finish sampling/ship soil samples

Register with FarmLab:

1. FarmLab helps you track and manage your soil data. You will use the FarmLab mobile app to navigate to and enter your sample information and data related for these points. Prior to sampling you should receive an invitation from FarmLab inviting you to access your farm. You must click '**Accept Invitation**'.
2. A new window in your browser will appear. Select '**New User**'.
3. Enter an email to login with and your password credentials*

*Note that FarmLab can be accessed via desktop and as a mobile app. The invitation to your email will take you to the desktop site but **you will also need to download the mobile app to use in-field during soil sampling** (see instructions below).

Download the FarmLab Mobile App

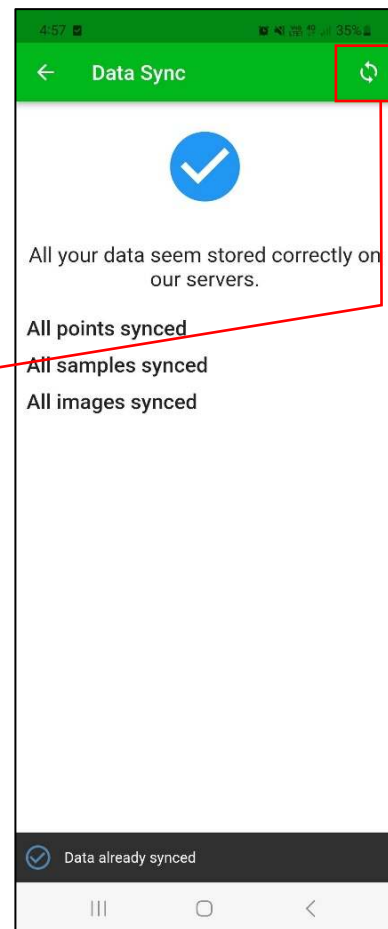
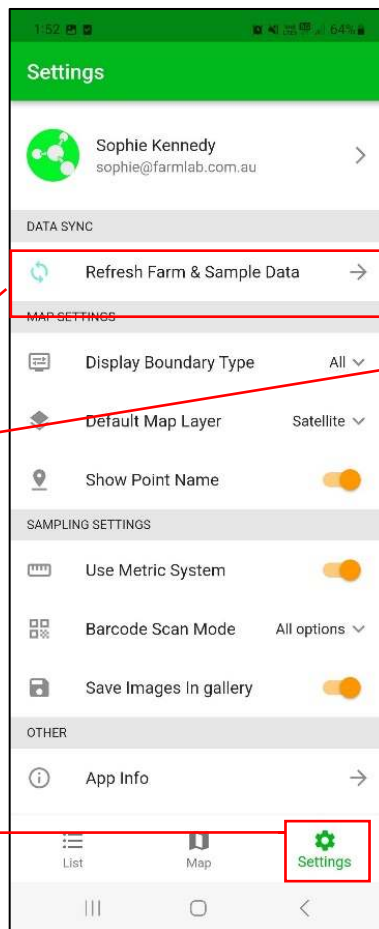
4. Search "**FarmLab**" in the Google Play or Apple Store and download onto mobile device you will use in the field. Use the same login credentials established during registration.

Before going out to sample:

5. Read through the rest of these instructions so you know how to use the app to find sampling locations and properly record field data.
6. Read through the SCI Guidance & Methodology for instructions on in-field tests (water infiltration, etc.) [HERE](#).

Back in the Office

7. When in good wi-fi or mobile data service area, ensure all data – soil sample barcodes, field observations and images - has been synchronized. ***Do not logout of your profile before syncing.**
8. Tap green **'Settings'** button (⚙️) at bottom right of screen.
9. Select **'Refresh Farm and Sample Data'**.
10. Tap the **'Data Sync'** button (↻️) at top right of the screen.
11. Inform FarmLab you have completed the sampling via email (info@getfarmlab.com).
12. Place barcoded bag in lab-addressed packaging.
13. Post the package on a Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday to avoid the samples getting stored in transit over the weekend.



Shipping samples:

14. Be sure to place all soil samples in your freezer until you are ready to ship.
15. When ready to ship, follow the steps below:
 1. We recommend using a box large enough to fit all samples safely for shipping.
 2. Print FedEx shipping label provided in your email and apply to top of box
 3. Print FarmLab submittal form provided in your email. Place this inside your shipping box.
16. When shipping, be sure to have the FedEx courier pick up your package in the morning on a Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday to ensure it gets to the lab within **2 days**.

Questions on soil tests or sampling protocol, contact: Taylor Herren (SCI) at (661) 303-4263

Questions on FarmLab app or shipping issues, contact: Hans Schaler (FarmLab) (303) 888-9919