

Are you aware of the ongoing changes to Ohio legislation on how animal producers manage manure storage and land application of manure? Did you know that persons intending to apply fertilizer to 50 or more acres must attend a certification course by September 17, 2017? The certification process will help producers track and manage nitrate and phosphorus applications and provide additional information about fertilizer and nutrient use best practices. With the interest of improving water quality and reducing algae, Ohio agriculture is in the cross-hairs of Ohio legislatures. We fully expect changes to the Ohio Pollution Abatement Program.

How can you prepare for these changes and be compliant with the law?

You can choose between two voluntary Nutrient Management Plan Resources:

- 1) Partner with USDA-NRCS. A comprehensive plan will be created by a Technical Service Provider (TSP) and you may be eligible for funding.
- 2) Partner with the Richland Soil and Water Conservation District and a **less complicated** plan is created.

Nutrient Management Plans are important for a number of reasons:

- 1) If a nutrient management plan is created and the objectives of the plan are met, you will be supported by the Richland Soil and Water Conservation District (Richland SWCD) if a civil complaint is filed against you.
- 2) You will protect the soil on your fields. Your Crop Nutrients will be optimized by applying the proper ratio of animal manure and commercial fertilizer. A key component of Nutrient Management is timely soil testing (every two to three years) so that you know how many tons of manure and commercial fertilizer are needed on your fields. This positively affects your profit line.
- 3) You will protect the river and stream water quality by reducing nutrient runoff from fields. By managing N, P, K for crop uptake, we are reducing algae blooms in lakes and rivers across the state. Algae blooms not only impacts our states' water quality but affects the bigger picture of land stewardship.

The farming community is working together with the Richland SWCD and others – to lead the way and show others the importance of doing their part to protect water quality. As land stewards, we are addressing a higher level of land management which will affect future generations.

[Contact us](#) today to get started on creating a Nutrient Management Plan.