

1. Voluntary Nutrient Management Plan Development & Implementation

Purpose

1. To encourage agricultural producers to develop and submit a voluntary nutrient management plan, for up to four years, to the local SWCD Board of Supervisors for approval
2. To increase producer collection and use of soil test results to develop nutrient recommendations
3. To properly utilize commercial fertilizer, manure and/or organic by-products as a plant nutrient source or soil amendment
4. To reduce agricultural nonpoint source pollution of surface water and groundwater resources

Applicability

Applies to cropland acres in the 14-county program area. Acres receiving payment under any other county, state or federal program (CSP, EQIP, etc.), are not eligible.

Specifications

1. Voluntary Nutrient Management Plans (VNMP) developed through this program must meet the minimum requirements set forth in ORC 905.31(DD)
2. VNMP may be developed by a 4R Certified Ag Retailer, Certified Crop Advisor (CCA), Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), or producer
3. Plans must be reviewed and approved by the local SWCD Board of Supervisors or director's designee
4. Producers utilizing a 4R Certified Ag Retailer, who is a director's designee, will need to submit their nutrient management plan to the local SWCD
5. Average yield goals shall be used for phosphorus and potassium fertilizer recommendations

Technical Responsibilities

Producer Responsibilities

1. For VNMP not developed by SWCD, submit completed VNMP to SWCD for review and or approval
2. For VNMP developed by SWCD, provide soil test reports, crop rotation, yields, proposed nutrient sources, and timing of nutrient application to SWCD
3. Make nutrient application records available to the SWCD for review and compliance with VNMP

SWCD Responsibilities

1. Receive application from the producer, determine eligibility, document plan on BMP Worksheet and complete the agreement
2. Develop VNMP (if requested by the producer) using the Ohio VNMP Spreadsheet
3. Refer non-approved VNMP back to the producer for edits and re-submittal to meet ORC 905.31 (DD)
4. Review VNMP's submitted by producers and make recommendations to the SWCD board for plan approval, if not already approved by director's designee
5. Enter all required information into Beehive
6. Review nutrient application records annually and certify records are consistent with approved VNMP
7. Process payment to the producer

Participant Payments

Producers may receive up to \$8/ac for this practice. Producers will receive \$2/ac upon approval of VNMP from the SWCD. Producers may receive an additional \$2/ac annually, for up to three years, after nutrient application records have been reviewed and certified each year. Funding for 2022 and 2023 are contingent on future funding of the program.

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Recordkeeping Requirements

All applicators/producers shall maintain nutrient application records. For each application of nutrients applied for the primary purpose of agricultural production, the applicator/producer shall document the following information within twenty-four hours of application:

1. The date of the application of nutrients;
2. The place of application of nutrients;
3. The number of acres applied;
4. The rate of application of nutrients;
5. The total amount of nutrients applied, by weight or volume;
6. An analysis of the nutrients applied;
7. The name of the individual who applied the nutrients;
8. The name of the certificate holder, if applicable;
9. The soil conditions at the time of the application;
10. The type of application method (soil injected, incorporated, surface, etc.);
11. The weather conditions at the time of application, including temperature and precipitation;
12. The weather forecast for the day following application; and
13. For surface application only, whether the land at the time of application was frozen and/or snow covered.

All individuals acting under the instructions and control of a certificate holder shall transmit all nutrient application records to the certificate holder within ten days of application.

Nutrient application records shall be maintained for a period of three years. If applicable, the employer of a certificate holder may elect to maintain the nutrient application records. If elected, the employer shall maintain the nutrient application records for a period of three years even if the employee-employer relationship has ended. The employer must make the records available to the certificate holder and the department of agriculture, upon request.

All fertilizer certificate holders shall transmit all nutrient application records to the farm operator within thirty days of application.

Fertilizer certificate holders are not required to submit these records to the director, but the records shall be made available to the director or the director's designee for review upon request.