

Nutrient Management

Definition/Purpose

A Nutrient Management Practice means a definitive plan to manage the amount, form, placement and timing of the application of nutrients to minimize entry of nutrients to surface and groundwater and improve water quality. (DIP)

Policies

1. Cooperator must agree to implement practice for three years. A payment of \$18 per acre will be paid when the practice is initiated. Cost Share funds may be used for any acres not already under nutrient management with no limit per applicant. No cost share payments may be made for nutrient management on land receiving animal waste.
2. Soils shall be tested every two years and soil samples must be taken in accordance with NCDA site specific recommendations or CES general recommendations. Soil samples must be used as a guide, and followed as deemed "reasonable" by both the nutrient management planner and the farmer. Soil samples must be documented by a ledger and/or map showing field size, shape, and soil sample locations.
3. Nutrient worksheets must be used annually for the crop rotation and acres planned to demonstrate a "reasonable" nutrient balance has been achieved (NCDA site specific recommendation, NRCS Worksheet, Nutrient Management #590). In cases where agronomic rates are not specified in the Nutrient Management standard for a specific crop or vegetative type, application rates may be determined using the best judgment of the nutrient management planner after consultation with CES or NCDA.
4. The same acreage must be used during this period. Consolidated Farm Service Agency (CFSA) map or equivalent, indicating location and acreage of field and location of soil samples and a soils map must be included with the CPO.
5. There is no minimum acreage required.
6. The local District has the authority to set additional limitations on acreage and/or maximum payment in accordance with the Cost Share Program policies and regulations.
7. Records are to be kept on farm and made available upon request and must include chemicals, animal waste, commercial fertilizers (dates & amounts applied), soils and waste analysis reports, "trips over field" narratives, general description of practices, crops grown and crop rotation.
8. Acceptable nutrient management planners are: NRCS, District, NCDA, Cooperative Extension Service and other agency personnel with nutrient management experience and who have been assigned nutrient management job approval authority by their respective agency. A cooperator may serve as his or her own planner; however, an acceptable nutrient management planner must review the plan and sign a verification statement certifying the plan meets technical standards (see Section VI for applicable form).

Agriculture Cost Share Program

9. The cooperator must sign a statement (NC-ACSP-1D) to follow the nutrient recommendations as prescribed by the plan. The NC-ACSP-1D form must also be signed by the District to certify that an appropriate nutrient management plan has been developed and is a part of the cooperator's District file. A copy of this statement must be included in the CPO.
10. The cooperator must certify the timing, amount and location of nutrient application events and provide a copy to the District Office in order to receive payment.
11. Five percent of all nutrient management plans will be spot checked annually by the local District.
12. BMP nitrogen, and phosphorus impacts are required on the contract. Include the planted acreage as well. Refer to the Minimum NCACSP Effects Requirements table later in this section for the correct methods of calculation.
13. When determining the acreage for which payments can be made for this practice, only the acreage actually planted shall be considered. The area occupied by farm roads, best management practices, ditches, structures, etc. shall not be included in planted acreage.
14. Minimum life of BMP is three (3) years.

Standards

N. C. NRCS Technical Guide, Section IV, Standard #590 (Nutrient Management) and #633 (Waste Utilization).