

What is a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?

A nutrient management plan is defined as managing the amount, form, placement, timing and application of animal manure, chemical fertilizer, biosolids (sewage sludge), or other plant nutrients used in the production of agricultural products to prevent pollution, maintain soil productivity and achieve realistic yield goals. The purposes of a nutrient management plan are:

- To adequately supply nutrients for plan production.
- To properly utilize manure or organic by-products as a plant nutrient source.
- To minimize agricultural non-point source pollution of surface and ground water resources.
- To maintain or improve the physical, chemical, and biological condition of soil.

All agricultural operations grossing \$2,500 or more annually, or livestock operations with more than eight animal units (*one animal unit = 1,000 pounds live weight*) are required to develop and implement a nutrient management plan by specific deadlines. The requirement applies to all agricultural land used to produce plants, trees, sod, food, feed, fiber, animals or other agricultural products.

A nutrient management plan will help you manage commercial fertilizer and animal manure input costs. It will also help you do your part to improve surface water quality.

What is included in a NMP?

The following components should be included in a nutrient management plan:

- An aerial photograph or map, and a soil map of the field.
- A current and/or planned crop production sequence or crop rotation.
- Results of soil, plant, water, manure or organic by-product sample analysis.
- Realistic yield potentials for crops in the rotation.
A quantification (listing) of all nutrient sources.
- Recommended nutrient rates, timing, form and method of application including incorporation timing for the time period of the plan.
- Location of designated sensitive areas or resources and the associated nutrient management restriction.
- Guidance for implementation, operation, maintenance, record keeping, and completed field-by-field nutrient budget for nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium for the rotation or crop sequence.

A statement that the plan was developed based on current standards and any applicable Federal, state, or local regulations or policies; that changes in any of these requirements may necessitate a revision of the plan.